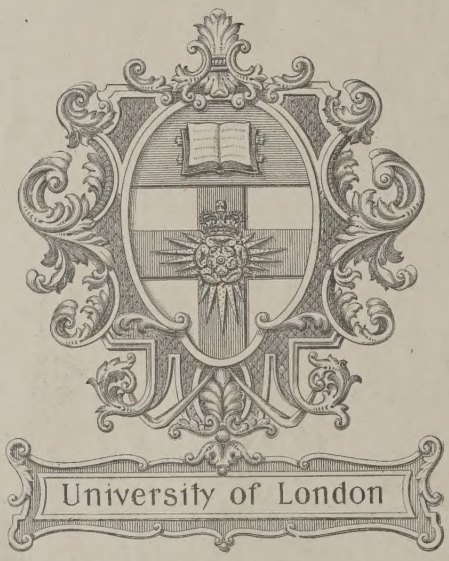
University of London

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REPORTS

FROM

COMMITTEES:

THIRTEEN VOLUMES.

—(9.)—

IRREMOVABLE POOR;
COUNTY RATES (IRELAND);
DESTITUTION (GWEEDORE AND CLOUGHANEELY).

Session

3 *December* 1857 —— 2 *August* 1858.

VOL. XIII.

1857-58.

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1857-58.

THIRTEEN VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE

NINTH VOLUME.

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REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

IRREMOVABLE POOR;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
29 *June* 1858.

Jovis, 10° *die Junii*, 1858.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed on the Operation of the Act 9 & 10 Vict. c. 66, which enacts that no Poor Person shall be Removable who shall have resided Five Years in any Parish, and of the Acts 10 & 11 Vict. c. 110, and 11 & 12 Vict. c. 110, which enact that the Relief given to such Irremovable Persons shall be charged upon the Common Fund of the Union.

Veneris, 11° *die Junii*, 1858.

Committee nominated of—

Mr. Sotheron Estcourt.	Mr. Maguire.
Mr. Knight.	Mr. Cobbett.
Mr. Edward Pleydell Bouverie.	Mr. Beecroft.
Mr. Miles.	Mr. Ayrton.
Mr. Lockhart.	Mr. Schneider.
Colonel Smyth.	Mr. Gregory.
Mr. Egerton.	Mr. Lygon.
Mr. Tollemache.	

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Martis, 29° *die Junii*, 1858.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to report their Observations, together with the Minutes of Evidence taken before them, to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed on the Operation of the Act 9 & 10 Vict. c. 66, which enacts that no Poor Person shall be Removable who shall have resided Five Years in any Parish, and of the Acts 10 & 11 Vict. c. 110, and 11 & 12 Vict. c. 110, which enact that the Relief given to such Irremovable Persons shall be charged upon the Common Fund of the Union;——HAVE considered the Matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following REPORT:—

THAT considering that the state of Public Business before The House renders it improbable that there will be sufficient time, before the close of the Session, to bring to a conclusion the subject submitted to Your Committee, or even any portion of it, and that it is unadvisable to enter upon any such subject without the prospect of being able to receive evidence both for and against any proposition that may be made, Your Committee do report the Evidence already received; and recommend to The House to re-appoint the Committee at the commencement of the next Session.

29 *June* 1858.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Martis, 15° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Sotheron Estcourt.	Mr. Schneider.
Mr. E. P. Bouverie.	Mr. Beecroft.
Mr. Knight.	Mr. Lockhart.
Mr. Cobbett.	Mr. J. Tollemache.
Mr. Lygon.	Mr. Gregory.
Colonel Smyth.	Mr. Miles.

Mr. SOTHERON ESTCOURT was called to the Chair.

The Committee deliberated as to their course of proceedings.

[Adjourned to Friday next, at One o'clock.

Veneris, 18° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. SOTHERON ESTCOURT, in the Chair.

Mr. Miles.	Mr. J. Tollemache.
Mr. Lockhart.	Mr. Knight.
Colonel Smyth.	Mr. Schneider.
Mr. E. P. Bouverie.	Mr. Gregory.

Mr. *W. G. Lumley*, examined.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at One o'clock.

Veneris, 25° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. SOTHERON ESTCOURT, in the Chair:

Mr. Beecroft.	Colonel Smyth.
Mr. Knight.	Mr. Lygon.
Mr. Schneider.	

[Adjourned till Tuesday, at One o'clock.

Martis, 29° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. SOTHERON ESTCOURT, in the Chair.

Mr. J. Tollemache.	Colonel Smyth.
Mr. Tatton Egerton.	Mr. Beecroft.
Mr. Lockhart.	Mr. Schneider.

Draft Report (Chairman) read as follows:

"That considering that the state of public business before the House renders it impossible that there will be sufficient time before the close of the Session to bring to a conclusion the subject submitted to your Committee, or even any portion of it, and that it is unadvisable to enter upon any such subject without the prospect of being able to receive evidence both for and against any proposition that may be made, your Committee do report the evidence already received, and recommend to the House to re-appoint the Committee at the commencement of the next Session and agreed to."

Ordered to Report, together with the Minutes of Evidence.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Veneris, 18° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. E. P. Bouverie.
Mr. Sotheron Estcourt.
Mr. Gregory.
Mr. Knight.
Mr. Lockhart.
Mr. Miles.
Mr. Schneider.
Colonel Smyth.
Mr. J. Tollemache.

THE RIGHT HON. THOS. H. SOTHERON ESTCOURT, IN THE CHAIR.

William Golding Lumley, Esq., called in; and Examined.

W. G. Lumley, Esq.

18 June 1858.

1. WILL you just mention what office you hold in the Poor Law Board?—I am senior Assistant Secretary.

2. How many years have you held office in that Board?—Nineteen years.

3. Will you be so good as to give to the Committee an account of the law as to the removal of the poor before 9th & 10th Victoria, chapter 66, was passed?—The earliest notice that we have with regard to the removal of poor persons, is in the statutes passed relating to the removal of vagrants, mendicants and beggars, which were very severe Acts, and perhaps it is not necessary to refer to them further than to state, that they were in force at the time of the 13th & 14th Charles the Second, the principal Act of Parliament to which we ought now to refer with reference to the established law of removal. That Act provided for the establishment of certain species of settlement, and recognised the existence of certain previously known heads of settlement, and then provided that any person who should come into any parish, not having a settlement therein, and likely to become chargeable as a poor person to that parish, should be liable instantly to be removed by the justices, to the parish where he was settled. From that statute the modern law of removal of poor persons may be said to have taken its origin; it was a harsh law, as is evident, because it affected a poor person whatever might be his condition, if there was a chance or a probability of that person becoming chargeable to the parish in which he had taken up his abode. There is this peculiarity about it however, that the actual vagrant, one who did not come into that parish with the intention of making it his abode was not liable to be removed; that is an accidental result, perhaps, of the language of the statute, but it has continued in force down to the present time. When that Act was passed of course removals took place of poor persons, and to avoid the harshness to which I referred, a system of certificate was introduced, a practice by which a man received from a parish a certificate of his being settled therein; with which certificate he could go to any other place and be free from the liability to be removed in the parish where he betook himself to work. The law continued in this state till the 35th of Geo. 3, c. 101, passed about 1795, when an alteration was made which removed the harshness of the then law, and provided

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that no person should be liable to be removed from the parish until he had become actually chargeable to the parish, until, in point of fact, he required relief, and that relief had been supplied to him; then, and not till then, could a poor person be removed. That same Act of Parliament introduced a system by which the order of removal, when made, might be suspended in the cases of persons who were sick or in a diseased state, and to whom a removal would be a serious grievance and great calamity; in that case the order of removal was suspended. Now the Commission that sat, in the years 1831 and 1832, upon the subject of the Poor Laws, among other matters recommended a great many alterations, in regard to the law of settlement and the law of removal. No material alteration with regard to the law of removal was made in the 4th & 5th Will. 4, cap. 76, excepting in certain matters which may be treated as matters rather of practice than any actual regulations as to the removal. The pauper was prevented from being removed for a limited term of 21 days, until it was ascertained whether the parish to which he was to be removed would receive him without appeal or not. If it appealed, the pauper was to be detained till the appeal was settled; but if there was no appeal, then, at the expiration of 21 days, the pauper was to be removed. No material alteration affecting the pauper was made at that time, and the law of removal continued, in point of fact, unaltered, so far as it affected the general paupers of England, until the 9th & 10th of Vict. c. 66. In the Ninth Annual Report of the Poor Law Commissioners there is a long considered investigation of the questions of settlement and of removal; and the Commissioners there, at great length, enter into the subject, both as to the principles on which settlement had been established, and the principles on which the power of removal rested; and they made various recommendations as to what alterations should be effected, both as regarded settlement and as regarded removal. They did not propose that the power of removal should be totally abolished, but they recommended that its power should be materially modified and restrained; that was in the Ninth Annual Report.

4. What year?—The report was in 1843, and beginning at p. 34 will be found the recommendations of the Commissioners, which were there set out in detail, and were afterwards embodied in a Bill. The first Bill was laid before the House of Commons in August 1844 by Sir James Graham and Mr. Manners Sutton, then the Under Secretary of State for the Home Department. It was a very elaborate Bill, and was laid before Parliament for consideration during the ensuing recess.

5. What was the main provision with regard to the law of removal in that Bill?—The provisions were very much what the provisions were that were subsequently adopted. If it were thought convenient I could refer to that Bill; it was laid upon the table of the House of Commons for consideration at that time, and in the ensuing Session it was again introduced, with similar provisions on the 17th of February 1845, by Sir James Graham and Mr. Manners Sutton. That Bill, however, not only provided for an alteration of the law of settlement and the law of removal, but the Bill also provided for the consolidation of unions, for making them unions for rating and settlement.

6. Was that the first Bill in which union rating and union settlement were laid before the House?—Yes, it was. I cannot tell what was done with that Bill in 1845. I do not remember further than that it was introduced.

7. And it did not pass?—It did not pass in 1845. It was again introduced in 1846, much in the same state as it was first introduced in 1845. It was unaltered, and passed a second reading; went through a committee, and in the first committee all the clauses relating to settlement were dropped, but the rest of the clauses were passed in committee, even those relating to the forming of unions for rating and settlement. In that state the Bill was in the House of Commons when the change of ministry took place, and the new Government then adopted certain clauses only of the Bill, and rejecting all those clauses that related to settlement, retained some few of the clauses that applied to the removal of paupers, and those clauses were passed (some six or seven) as a substantive Bill in the year 1846, and constituted the Act of the 9th & 10th Vict. c. 66, the Act which is now in force for the removal of paupers.

8. Will you state to the Committee the main provisions of that Act of 1846?—When it was passed, the Poor Law Commissioners issued a circular letter, by which they expressed the provisions of the statute; and perhaps it may be deemed convenient

convenient that the letter which the Commissioners had issued may be appended to the evidence. The Act provided in its first clause, that no person should be removed from the parish in which he had resided for the space of five years next, before the application for the warrant of removal. Then there were certain matters which were to be excluded from the computation of the five years, and they were the time during which a person should be a prisoner, soldier, marine or sailor, or in-pensioner in Greenwich or Chelsea Hospitals, confined in a lunatic asylum, or a patient in a hospital, or during which time any such person shall receive relief from any parish; and then another which was much to the same effect, as to the being relieved by any rate or subscription in any parish in which such person did not reside. Then there was a proviso to prevent the application of the Act to the removal of lunatics; and another to prevent the separation in case of removal, of husband from wife, and parent from child; that was the first clause. The second clause prevented the removal of a widow who was resident with her husband at the time of his death, for 12 months after his decease, provided she continued so long a widow. Then the third clause prevents the removal of children, step-children and illegitimate children from the parish in which they are residing with their parents or reputed fathers, in every case where the parent or reputed father cannot be removed. The fourth clause applies to sick paupers, and it takes away the power of removing paupers in cases where relief is made necessary by sickness or accident, unless the justices granting the warrant, state in such warrant that they are satisfied that the sickness or accident will produce permanent disability. These are the clauses in that Act of Parliament which actually apply to the prevention of removal. With regard to the fourth clause, I should wish to say that it made a most material alteration in the previous law, because it interfered with the power which had previously existed of suspending orders of removal. Before that Act, a sick person was not, in point of fact, removed because the order, if the party was not fit to be removed, was suspended,; and, so far as the individual was concerned, he suffered no personal inconvenience from the issuing of the warrant. Then when the sickness was over, and the party recovered, whether able to continue his work or not, he and his family were still liable to be removed; but, by the alteration effected in this Act, that could not take place, as the magistrate when he granted his warrant was bound to say that the sickness would produce permanent disability.

9. Was not some difficulty found in interpreting and putting a construction upon the Act?—Yes; difficulties occurred upon two parts of the first clause. The Committee have observed that I pointed out that the language of the clause referring to the relief which was to be received was in the future tense apparently, and therefore the proviso was considered open to question. The Poor Law Commissioners on the first application, at that time probably influenced by their own intention, or as to what their intention had been, gave their opinion that it operated both retrospectively and prospectively, and therefore that wherever a pauper was at the time of the passing of the Act, in receipt of relief, the time of his relief was excluded from the computation. That opinion of the Poor Law Commissioners was not universally acquiesced in, and they deemed it advisable to consult the law officers of the Crown as to the proper meaning to be placed upon those words. The opinion which they gave was, that the proviso was purely prospective, and did not operate to prevent an exemption in respect to paupers who were in the receipt of relief at the time of the passing of the Act, or had been in receipt of relief for a time which would have excluded the residence from which the exemption was derived under the first part of the clause. That was really the substantial difficulty that arose upon the construction of the clause. There was another difficulty as to the persons to whom it should apply; a difficulty which very few persons really felt, namely, as to whether it should apply to English people only or to English and Irish. Upon that a difference of opinion prevailed, which lasted for a considerable length of time. It was ultimately settled by a judicial decision, but conformably with the view which had been expressed by the Poor Law Commissioners in the first instance.

10. During the autumn of the year in which this Act was passed, was not great dissatisfaction felt, and did not great uncertainty prevail as to the mode of carrying it into operation in the different unions?—Great uncertainty, and very great dissatisfaction of course arose upon the interpretation that was put upon those words, because, for a long period, a vast number of parishes and boards of

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guardians had been relieving poor persons who were not settled in their parishes, but were settled elsewhere, and who had received non-resident relief, and if that non-resident relief was not to operate as within the terms of the proviso, all those poor persons became immediately irremovable from the parish in which they were residing, and where they would not have been allowed to reside if the board of guardians or the parish officers had really anticipated that they would become permanently charged upon them. When, therefore, the opinion of the law officers of the Crown was circulated, and the Commissioners deemed it their duty to act upon it, the unions throughout the country were exceedingly dissatisfied, and a great deal of ill feeling was expressed in numerous quarters; it was considered that they had not been fairly treated, and that this statute had worked a great grievance in many parts of the country. All that could be said was, that if the Act of Parliament did bear that construction, it was a greater benefit to the poor people, and it was hoped that there would be so much mutuality in the charges, that ultimately the unions would take on the one side, what they lost on the other, so that there would ultimately be an equal benefit. In the meantime it was sought to obtain the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench on the point; the Court, however, gave no decision; they had one case brought before them, but they declined to give any decision upon the matter, and it remained open for a considerable time in point of law. The Government had promised that it would propose the appointment of a Committee of the House of Commons to consider the general subject of the law of settlement; and accordingly when Parliament met, the matter was referred to a Committee of the House of Commons appointed to consider the general law of setlement. At that time petitions came from various boards of guardians complaining of the operation of this Act of Parliament, and of the construction that had been put upon it. It was moved in the House that the subject of those petitions should be referred to that same Committee, with a request that the Committee should report upon the subject immediately. In the mean time, I believe, it will be found that two Bills were introduced into the House of Commons to meet that difficulty; one Bill proposed to repeal the proviso to the first clause of the Act entirely, and the other was to give it a retrospective as well as a prospective operation. These two Bills did not pass, because the Committee having considered the subject, and having heard all that could be said on both sides, thought it better that there should be no legislation upon the subject, but that it should rest until the courts of law had pronounced some decided opinion as to the proper construction to be put upon the statute; but a third measure was then proposed by Mr. Bodkin, who was then a Member of the House and also a member of this Committee, and that measure of Mr. Bodkin certainly introduced the present system of union chargeability. Mr. Bodkin introduced a Bill which recited the doubts that had arisen, and provided that in respect to all poor persons who were in the receipt of relief in the year previously to the passing of that Act of Parliament, and who would otherwise be exempt by reason of residence from removal, but for the operation of that proviso the cost of their relief should be charged, not to the parish, in which they were settled or the parish in which they resided, but to the common fund of the union in which they happened at that time to reside; it was a compromise; the case was looked at as a temporary difficulty, it being hoped that in the meantime the courts of law would pronounce a judicial decision as to the real interpretation to be put upon the statute.

11. Mr. *Knight.*] It was only intended as a temporary Bill?—Yes.

12. *Chairman.*] Was that Bill passed on the face of it, as a temporary enactment?—Yes, certainly. It was only intended to last for a year.

13. What was the course taken by the courts of law during that year, with regard to the interpretation of the former Act?—The question was not decided, pending the operation of that Act of Parliament. It was not decided by the Court of Queen's Bench for two or three years afterwards. There had been a case brought before the court, upon which it was hoped the court would give their decision; but it was so presented to them, that they felt they were unable to do so, as it simply called in question the judgment which the justices had pronounced upon granting, or withholding an order for removal, and the court felt that they could give no judgment upon this decision.

14. Mr. *Miles.*] From the circumstances which have come to your knowledge, do you not think that from the time of the passing of that Act down to the time of the passing of Mr. Bodkin's Act, great injustice was done to the poor?—Not to the poor, but to the parishes.

15. But

15. But to the poor likewise; I presume that reference has been made to the complaints that were urged at that time, as to the treatment which the poor received at the hands of the guardians?—With regard to that, it is right to say that no doubt complaints, and charges were made, and the Poor Law Commissioners took means to investigate the truth of those charges. They sent a circular letter to all the unions in the country, and requested the boards of guardians to state to them, affirmatively or negatively, whether they had passed any resolution upon the subject, and if they had passed any resolution upon the subject, what it was; and again, whether they had made any difference in the administration of relief to the poor, towards classes who would fall within the operation of that proviso; and answers were received from nearly 500 unions, and out of the whole number seven or eight admitted that they had passed resolutions, and that they had made a difference in respect to the administration of the relief of the poor; but all the rest negatived it entirely; some negatived both propositions, while some only negatived the important proposition as to making any difference in the administration of relief, and the Poor Law Commissioners came to the conclusion that the charges which had been made were not supported. I cannot say, and I think no one will pretend to say, that there might not be individual cases in which officers or board of guardians might not have done that which one would regret, but I believe from all we could gather, that though in truth the boards of guardians were very much dissatisfied, they did not carry that dissatisfaction out to the injury or the suffering of the poor.

16. Mr. *Mills.*] Referring to the evidence which was given before the Committee which sat in 1847, was not the whole tenor of it this, that it had worked great injury to the poor themselves?—My recollection of the evidence is, that charges were made to that effect.

17. Were not those charges substantiated?—I can scarcely go the length of saying to what extent they were substantiated. There were some, I admit, but I do not think they were enough to constitute anything like a general charge, or any real substantial ground of a general complaint. I say that it is impossible in the administration of so extended a subject as the poor law, that there will not be some individual cases of hardship and misconduct on the part of officers, and individual boards of guardians. I think that was the real result of the evidence upon that Committee.

18. *Chairman.*] Is it your opinion that the result of the evidence given before that Committee was, that as a general rule, the condition of the poor had been improved, or the reverse, by the operation of the Act of 1846?—I do not think that the evidence proved that proposition either one way or the other. The charge was, that the reading of this proviso affected the boards of guardians so much, that they were very irritated, and their officers were very much irritated, and that they had therefore behaved more harshly to the poor, who would otherwise have been removable, but who were rendered irremovable by this construction. That charge was no doubt substantiated to a certain extent; but as to cases produced establishing general charge, there was no ground in my belief for such an opinion.

19. That being your opinion as to the operation and the meaning put by boards of guardians upon the terms of the Act of 1846, do you think that the operation of that Act was hard upon particular parishes or particular unions?—Certainly it was so. There is no doubt that many unions were affected by the permanent maintenance of the paupers; and supposing that this interpretation had continued, they would have been affected to a very great extent, and in a manner they had never any reason to anticipate; nor was the proposition one which the Poor Law Commissioners had for a moment contemplated.

20. Will you now state to the Committee what was the general result of the Report of that Committee of 1847?—The Report of the Committee of 1847 upon this particular point was to this effect, that it was not deemed advisable to recommend any action on the part of Parliament in reference to that statute. Then so far as the parishes were concerned, they became immediately relieved from the operation of this interpretation by the Act which Mr. Bodkin introduced. That statute threw the charge upon the common fund of the union, instead of upon the parish where the pauper was settled, or the parish in which he resided. Therefore that Act of Parliament affected a great many parishes, because there were a great many cases in which the pauper was settled in one parish, and resided in another. When he was settled in one union and re-

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sided in a different one, the practice had been for the settlement parish to pay for his maintenance in the union where he was residing. By the operation of Mr. Bodkin's Act the charge was moved from the settlement parish altogether, and thrown upon the common fund of the union.

21. What was the next proceeding with regard to the question of removability in Parliament?—That Act was an Act for reimbursement. The parish had to pay in the first instance and was reimbursed afterwards by the common fund of the union, and this continued in operation for a year. At the close of the Session of 1847 the Committee which had sat upon settlement passed a series of resolutions relative to the subject both of settlement and of removal, and also to the establishment of union rating, but they did not adopt those resolutions to the extent of actually reporting them to the House; they simply passed the resolutions, and reported to the House in this language, that they had passed such resolutions.

22. Was not the resolution come to by the Committee this, that the chairman was not to report those resolutions to the House?—I do not exactly remember in what shape it was, but it was to the effect that the Committee had adopted the resolutions as they were passed, but nevertheless they did not think it right to report them to the House for the House to act upon; I think that is the substance of the Report, and took place while Mr. Bodkin's Act was pending. In the same Session the Poor Law Board was re-constituted and changed from a Commission, as it had previously been to the Board which is now in action. Mr. Buller, who was the chairman of the Committee, was appointed the First President of the Board, and in the ensuing Parliament Mr. Buller brought forward his propositions. In the first place he extended Mr. Bodkin's Act, which the Committee will recollect I stated was confined to the simple class of residents; he proposed to extend that clause to all the classes of persons who are provided for in the 9th and 10th Victoria, that is, not only the persons who were rendered irremovable by residence, but the widows who were rendered irremovable during the first year of widowhood, and their children, and the children who are irremovable from their parents, and to that large class of persons who are temporarily disabled; he proposed that the whole of that body of poor persons should be charged upon the common fund of the union, that is, charged directly upon it, not as in the case of Mr. Bodkin's Act, charged to the parish in the first instance, and then for the union to reimburse the parish, but charged at once and directly upon the common fund. His Bill also, when first introduced, contained provisions for the creation of union rating, but those clauses were omitted, and it ultimately passed simply as a temporary measure imposing the chargeability of all these classes of irremovable poor upon the common fund of the union.

23. Mr. *Schneider.*] Then Mr. Bodkin's Act would not affect a city like Norwich, which being a union, and also one parish in itself for the rating purposes of parishes, would not receive any relief?—It was not in the slightest degree affected by Mr. Bodkin's Act, though it had been affected by the Poor Law Removal Act; nor was it affected by Mr. Buller's Act.

24. Mr. *Knight.*] It was intended, was it not, to stop the gap, until the law officers of the Crown had decided the point?—Yes.

25. *Chairman.*] Was Mr. Buller's Act passed as a temporary Act, or was it made a permanent one?—It was a temporary Act, as appears by the third clause. That clause was temporary; and on the part of Mr. Buller (I suppose there is no reason why I should not state, from my own knowledge, what his intentions were); it was intended to be temporary, with a view to the ulterior legislation on this subject which he contemplated, and which he had considerably organised, when his death took place.

26. Have you now in substance detailed to the Committee the Acts relating to the removal of the poor, which are in force at the present moment?—Yes; perhaps it is as well that I should mention that a difficulty arose upon the construction of the 9th and 10th of Victoria, with regard to one of the provisoes about a woman being removable where her husband was removable. Some difficulty arose upon that, and an amending Act was passed, the 10th & 11th of Victoria, introduced into the House of Commons, and passed merely to explain that proviso. It simply carries out the intention of the Legislature, namely, that if a man be removable, his wife and children shall be removable; but it sought to clear up the difficulty which arose upon the construction of the

the language of the Act; but that is a matter which perhaps I need not trouble the Committee with farther. Nothing material has turned upon it.

27. Have not those Acts been continued, by successive prolongations, from that time to the present?—I should say that in the successive extending Acts one or two little minor points have been disposed of. There have been some little matters of extension. For instance, Mr. Buller's Act, was confined to the unions formed under the Poor Law Amendment Act, and the subsequent Acts extended the provisions to certain incorporated hundreds in Norfolk and Suffolk; and an extension, to some extent, has been made as to the relief of lunatic paupers. Those minor alterations have been effected in the passing of the renewals.

28. Is it the fact that at this moment the statutes which relate to the irremovability of the poor, and their chargeability upon the unions, are of a temporary character?—The statutes which relate to the chargeability of the irremovable poor upon the common fund are of a temporary nature.

29. Are the statutes which direct their irremovability permanent?—Yes, they are. The statute of the 9th & 10th of Victoria is a permanent Act, but those which charge the cost upon the common fund are temporary. The last Act will expire in the Session next after the 30th of September next, so that if that Act should not be renewed in the next Session of Parliament the whole chargeability upon the union will cease, and in that case what may be said to be the common law upon this point will revive, and each parish will maintain its own settled poor, and the whole of those who are irremovable also; by the settled poor I mean those settled poor who are resident in their own parish.

30. Does this irremovability apply to the Gilbert Unions, and to places under local Acts?—It does not apply to the Gilbert Acts, nor would it apply to places under local Acts—at least not the chargeability of irremovable poor. Thus with regard to places such as Norwich, which has been referred to, and Bristol, and several places of that kind, the poor are all relieved out of the common fund, and therefore they did not require this provision as to the common chargeability. Neither did it apply to the single parishes that are governed by local Acts, to which of course necessarily this part of the new law is not applicable.

31. Since these Acts passed has there been any difficulty in adjusting the accounts of the union?—After the lapse of two or three years the proper construction of the Act of Parliament was given by the Court of Queen's Bench. The Court decided then that the opinion which had been expressed by the law officers of the Crown was not right, and that the proviso had a retrospective operation.

32. Was that decision in accordance with the circular of the Poor Law Board, or not?—It was contrary to the opinion which the Poor Law Board had circulated, when they made known the view and the interpretation which the Attorney and Solicitor General had given.

33. Mr. *Tollemache.*] I understood you to say that the Poor Law Commissioners issued a letter before ——— in which they gave their view of the Act?—They expressed their view of the Act of Parliament in the first instance, but they then simply quoted the words of the Act.

34. Will you state whether the view which the Commissioners first of all took, was the same which was ultimately taken by the Court of Queen's Bench?—It was. I think I ought to state that upon the first two or three applications which were made to them, they gave that as their view of the construction which they thought the statute bore, but they were overruled in that respect, and thought themselves bound to acquiesce in the opinion expressed by the law officers of the Crown. Then in the year 1849, which was three years afterwards, the Court of Queen's Bench gave their decision, and interpreted the proviso. Upon that event a question immediately arose upon the part of the different boards of guardians, to know what was to be done with regard to the charges that had been made. The Poor Law Commissioners thought it right to circulate a letter to express the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench, and to show that it was at variance with that which they had previously stated; and then arose the question what the guardians were to do with regard to the charges that had been dealt with under the previous advice. It was a question of considerable difficulty, because, to go over the accounts which had been passed and audited for three years would have been a very serious matter, difficult of adjustment and very inconvenient, and the view that the Board took, judging of the

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established rule of law, was, that no accounts that had been closed and audited could be opened again, and therefore that a matter so settled must remain. But as to the future, of course the new view of the law was to have its operation, and the matter has since proceeded without any difficulty as to this point. But that construction was not altogether satisfactory to many boards of guardians, who thought they ought to have back that which they had paid.

35. That matter, however, being settled authoritatively by the Poor Law Board, and I presume eventually acquiesced in by the unions, what has been the state as between the union and the parish with regard to the question of chargeability since that time?—From that time there has been a very considerable amount of antagonism at the board of guardians; the object has been, on the part of the union, to exclude from the common fund every pauper not in their view chargeable upon their own fund. The parish, on the other hand, has been desirous, if possible, of charging every pauper that it can to the common fund, rather than to itself; and the question very soon arose as to how both parties were to deal with regard to the individual pauper. If the board of guardians were to say the poor must prove that this pauper is to be put upon the common fund, the question arose as to how that was to be done. On the other hand, if the guardians of the poor say, we insist upon this pauper being put upon the common fund, and not upon our parish, how was that to be effected? The advice which the Poor Law Board gave, when consulted, was, that the board of guardians having relieved the paupers, but having incurred the cost through themselves and their officers, it became incumbent upon them, in making out their accounts, to see that they charged all those expenses to the right fund; therefore, upon them, in the first instance, lay the onus of charging the relief, either to the parish or to the common fund, as the merits of the case required, and the Board could only offer to them advice, or to decide any disputed question of law that might arise before the guardians. The guardians frequently contended, that it was incumbent upon the parish to show, not only that the pauper was not settled in the parish, but that the pauper was settled somewhere else; that was a very great difficulty to the parish officers, they were involved in as much difficulty in settling the question of a small matter of relief, as if they wanted an order of removal. The advice which the Poor Law Commissioners gave was, that it was not necessary; that it was only necessary to show that the pauper was not settled in the parish where he had resided for the appointed time; and most boards of guardians acted upon that view until a case of considerable hardship came under discussion, the papers relating to which has been presented to this House; ultimately, the question came before the Court of Queen's Bench for decision.

36. *Chairman.*] Are you referring to the case of the Queen versus Bennett?—Yes; that case was reported in 3d Ellis and Blackburn, Rep. p. 341; it was a case of considerable singularity, arising in this way. The ancient Forest of Dean was an extra-parochial district of very large extent, with a very considerable population. By the 5th and 6th of Victoria, c. 48, that forest was parochialized and divided into two portions, into townships, the two townships of East and West Dean, and the Poor Law Board had to deal with each as a parish; as it was made for the future a parish. The Poor Law Commissioners at that time added the two portions, East Dean to one union, and West Dean to another. East Dean was added to the union called the Westbury-upon-Severn Union. Until the passing of this Act of Parliament the whole matter went on quietly enough; the poor people in those townships were relieved by the township, but when this union chargeability became established, the question arose in respect to the inhabitants of those townships, because as the place had been extra-parochial it was impossible for any of the persons who had been born there, or any one who had resided there for any length of time, to have acquired any settlement therein. A pauper therefore could not be settled therein; but very many had resided the five years therein, and consequently this question was raised between the township and the union: are these poor persons who are residing in this new township to be charged to the common fund, or to be charged to the township? That question seemed to resolve itself, as regarded the construction of the Act of Parliament, into this proposition, that they had resided five years in the township, and they were not settled therein. The opinion which the Poor Law Commissioners gave was, that they thought however hard it might be upon the Union, that these paupers were, nevertheless,

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within the terms of the Act, and that they were chargeable therefore upon the common fund. That view was looked upon as very hard upon the union, and created much dissatisfaction. The guardians took the question into the Court of Queen's Bench, and the Court of Queen's Bench gave a judgment with some degree of feeling of indignation against the parish authorities. They decided at once that it was wrong; that the township was not entitled to cast its paupers upon the common fund, that it would be almost a fraud to do so, and they decided therefore that the common fund was not liable; and in the judgment there are certain expressions used, which lead to this opinion, that in carrying out this Act of Parliament, it was necessary not only to prove that the paupers had resided in the parish for five years without relief, but that they were settled elsewhere. Upon that decision being so pronounced, a new practice arose in various parts of the country, the boards of guardians insisted in many places upon the parish officers proving distinctly a settlement elsewhere. The view taken by the Poor Law Board certainly did not go to that extent. The board thought that the case had been really decided upon its peculiar merits, and that this was not the proper construction to be put upon the decision; and they continued to advise the boards of guardians that they should not call upon the parishes to prove absolutely a settlement elsewhere, but that they should rest satisfied with reasonable evidence that the pauper was not settled in the parish where he was residing, but that he was settled elsewhere; such settlement being shown by fair and reasonable evidence, such as a man might act upon without the formality of a legal trial. However, though some boards of guardians acquiesced in the view which the Poor Law Board had taken upon it, others refused to do so, and they took more or less stringent means to enforce parishes to prove distinctly those facts.

37. Has any decision been pronounced by any legal authority to determine that question?—Yes. Very lately the guardians of the union being dissatisfied with the opinion which the Poor Law Board had expressed, and as to certain proceedings which arose out of their opinion, took the question again into the Court of Queen's Bench. Thereupon the Court decided that their decision in the West Dean case was a peculiar one, that it turned purely upon the peculiar circumstances of it, and upon some expressions in the local Act to which I have referred, as indicating the intention of the legislature, signifying that although the poor persons might not in one sense be settled therein, yet they were to be maintained by the township. That they held that generally, and in ordinary cases it is not at all necessary for the parish officers to prove a settlement elsewhere, but that it is sufficient to prove that a pauper is not settled in the parish in which he has resided for the given length of time.

38. Are you referring to the decision in the case of The Queen *v.* The Bedminster Union?—Yes.

39. What has been the consequence of that last decision?—It is rather more a matter of inference that I must draw from it at present; experience has not extended far, but it is reasonable to suppose, no doubt, that it will have a considerable effect upon this question. It is very easy now for the parish officers to cast upon the common fund a larger amount of their paupers; they may easily prove that a pauper has resided a given time in their parish; and it is very easy to prove that a pauper is not settled therein. The Committee know that the means of acquiring a settlement for poor persons are now so very slight, that it is easy to disprove the fact of settlement in a particular parish.

40. Do you think that the probable effect of the decision in the case of the Queen *v.* The Bedminster Union will be, that there will be a considerable addition made to the number of cases of paupers charged upon the common fund?—That is my view; I think it will be so. I draw this inference, not only from the circumstances and the natural arguments that arise out of it, but from the practice which I know to have been prevailing in different unions, which practice must have tended very much to restrain the chargeability upon the common fund.

41. Was not the practical effect of the decision in the case of The Queen *v.* The Bedminster Union, though not completely at variance with the decision in The Queen *v.* Bennett, to give a different interpretation to the terms of the Act of Parliament from that which was supposed to be the correct interpretation in the case of The Queen *v.* Bennett?—Yes.

42. Did not the decision in the case of The Queen *v.* The Bedminster Union settle the question in this sense, that all that was required in order to render the

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common fund liable for the expenses of a pauper was, that he should be shown to have resided five years, and that he was not settled in a parish?—Exactly.

43. Did it not entirely lay aside all question of where his proper settlement might be?—It did so.

44. Will you be so good as to give the Committee some description of the common fund which by these statutes is made liable for the maintenance of irremovable paupers?—The common fund is prescribed by the Poor Law Amendment Act, the 4th & 5th Will. 4, c. 76; which provides that when a union is formed, the parishes shall all contribute to matters of common use, such as the maintenance of the workhouse, the payment of the salaries, and any other objects which can be treated for the common use, according to certain averages; those averages are struck upon the basis of the pauperism of the respective parishes.

45. The previous pauperism?—The previous pauperism of the several parishes in the union; an average is taken for three years of the previous pauperism, and this proceeds upon a very fair principle; the common fund being for the common use of the parishes in the union, of course you naturally require them to contribute in proportion to what it may be presumed they may require from this common fund; if there be a parish having a number of paupers to a certain amount, and another parish to a much smaller amount, it is fair to say that the contribution to the common fund should be in proportion to the demands in those two parishes.

46. Mr. *Knight.*] In proportion to the benefit that each parish derives from it?—Or the supposed use that might be made of it. That was the principle upon which the common fund was established under the Poor Law Amendment Act which was in force at the time of the passing of those Acts of Parliament; therefore, when the Act of Parliament was passed, casting a new burden upon the common fund, we had nothing to do but to refer to the common fund as defined by the Poor Law Amendment Act. But it is obvious that the union paupers have in no way fallen within the principle that I have expressed, because it was a mere accident whether those paupers were in the union or not; there was no reason why the charge for them should be placed more on one parish in a union than upon another, or upon the common fund; but, as it was cast upon the whole district, the most reasonable proposition would have been, to have made the whole district one parish, and therefore contribute for the maintenance of this common charge as a parish, the contribution would then have been in proportion to its rateable property throughout.

47. Mr. *Gregory.*] That is the Irish principle, is it not?—Yes; but we have nothing of that kind to guide boards of guardians in England, and for this reason, probably that the enactments are temporary; there can be no doubt that the framers of the Acts contemplated some ulterior changes in the law of some kind or another. It would be practically an exceedingly inconvenient thing, most inconvenient indeed, to have two bases for the calculations of the common fund, it would be almost impracticable in many unions, and therefore it followed that this new charge was cast upon the common fund, calculated upon the principle laid down in the Poor Law Amendment Act; therefore, in many instances, many of the parishes have been much aggravated by the charge being thrown upon them by this process, being required not only to maintain their own paupers, but to sustain a large share of the common fund paupers besides.

48. Is it your opinion now, that the principle upon which the common fund was established at first, considering the purposes to which it was to be applied, was just and reasonable; but when it was applied, as it was in the Act of 1846, to the relief of the non-settled and irremovable paupers, that its application became unjust and unfair?—That is my opinion, certainly.

49. Is this your meaning, that the principle upon which the common fund was established, was, that you took for the basis of your calculation the amount of pauperism to which each parish has been liable for three years before, and that that was a very fair and just principle when the first Poor Law was established, by which to determine how much each of them should contribute towards the common expenditure?—Yes.

50. But as soon as you put, as you did in 1846, upon the common fund all persons who were irremovable by reason of five years' residence, it was an entirely new element of calculation, totally omitted from a system of averages generally, and the basis of the calculation of the common fund, as established by the 4th & 5th of Will. 4, became unfair in its application?—I think so. Take the case

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of a pauper living in a particular parish in a union becoming irremovable, that pauper is cast upon the common fund. Now, previously, that pauper would either have been chargeable to the parish in which he resided, or to the parish in which he was settled; but now that pauper is chargeable, to a certain extent, upon the parish in which he lives, and upon the neighbouring parish in which he has neither residence, nor is settled. Therefore that neighbouring parish has to pay something in respect of this pauper, for which there was no principle existing under the previous system.

51. Mr. *Mills*.] The parish having laboured under an injustice for eight years, do you not think some alteration is necessary in the law?—I think it is. Perhaps I ought to say that as it is a question depending somewhat upon this consideration, how much, or what is the proportion of this union chargeability to the common and ordinary chargeability of relief, we have been able to make something like an estimate during three years for 1855, 1856 and 1857. Taking the unions (because the question of irremovability of paupers cannot be traced excepting in unions; there is great difficulty in tracing it in single parishes), the amount in 1855 of the irremovable poor, was 793,000 *l.* out of 3,820,000 *l.*, the cost of the total poor, this applies to 606 unions. Now that is about one fifth; in 1856 it was 829,000 out of 3,900,000, but there were 607 unions there. In the year 1857 the return is 812,000 out of 3,750,000, so that there is not a very considerable amount of variation. The proportion of the cost of the irremovable poor is very large, and therefore if we are to have an alteration of the basis, I am rather disposed to think that the cost of the irremovable poor ought to draw with it the cost of the other common charges. That is to say, it would follow, assuming as I do, that the proper basis with regard to the irremovable poor is that they should be charged upon the parishes, with reference to their rateable value, that for convenience sake the other charges upon the common fund must be drawn in the same direction. If this charge had been trifling in amount, and there was reason to suppose that it would continue to be trifling in amount, then I think it should follow the other principle; but as this essential and very large proportion of the charge is one, I have every reason to think, will increase year by year, I think that there can be no doubt as to the proper basis on which it ought to be charged.

52. In any re-arrangement, are you of opinion that the common fund should be raised from the rateable value of each parish, or should be raised upon the basis of averages, as is directed by the Poor Law Amendment Act, as far as regards the irremovable poor?—I think undoubtedly that the charges for the relief of the irremovable poor should be borne by the whole of the union at large, in proportion to the rateable annual value of all the property in it indiscriminately; but then I think that the convenience of unions will not justify us in having two bases of contributions to the common fund, and therefore if we are to charge the union paupers upon the common fund, calculated according to the rateable property, so also we must charge all the other common charges upon the common fund calculated in the same manner.

53. Mr. *Schneider*.] I suppose you take that upon the ground that the common fund for other purposes is of a much smaller amount than the amount required?—I think if they are not smaller in amount, they are very nearly about the same; I think that this charge will draw with it greater liabilities than the other.

54. Mr. *Knight*.] Do you think that a great increase in the population of a parish by immigration is likely to impoverish, or to enrich that parish?—The mere immigration of paupers will not improve a parish, but it is difficult to answer this question.

55. Is it not the case that almost invariably, in England, where in the last 20 years there has been a great increase of population, there has been a great increase of property as assessed to the property tax?—I think it must be admitted that an increase of population has for the most part tended to increase the value of property, but there are exceptional cases.

56. If the increase of population in a parish increases the value of the property in that parish, is it not fair that that parish should pay for its poor when they want relief?—If that parish is bound to maintain its paupers, no doubt it is so; if the fact is that the parish would certainly have to pay for the maintenance of its paupers it must be so, but then the proposition may be different when that parish is in a union and is called upon to contribute to the maintenance of paupers not in the parish at all.

57. Take the case of a rural parish eight or ten miles off, that would not derive the

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the same benefit from the labour of its paupers that the town parish would?—This involves a very considerable question of principles and details; it may be that it would be so, that in many instances the distant parish would not derive the same benefit from the labour of the poor, and on the other hand it may be very difficult to trace what benefit is derived from the population in the vicinity, for the demand for food in a large town may draw so much from that particular agricultural parish as greatly to increase the value of the property in that parish.

58. But a reference to the property-tax will show whether the town parish has increased in value, and also whether the rural parish has increased in value?—Yes, that is shown undoubtedly in some of the returns.

59. Suppose a number of rural parishes in the same union, seven or eight miles off from the town parish, which has increased in population and very largely in wealth, and suppose that an equal burden of supporting the poor who have occasioned that increase of wealth is thrown upon them, do you think it would be fair as to those who have not derived the same advantages from that irremovable population, to make them pay equally for their support?—I think if the union paupers must be treated as being a case of paupers of a particular class whose chargeability is cast over a certain district, to their maintenance the whole of that district ought to contribute. No doubt the proposition is involved in the expediency, or the propriety, or impropriety of continuing the union chargeability.

60. The question is whether it is just that the paupers who create the wealth of that populous parish, should be thrown on the other rural parishes 10 miles off, which do not enjoy the benefit of their labour?—Take the case of two parishes, neither the one nor the other of which has anything to do with this parish, they may be two rural parishes, and yet they are called upon to contribute to the maintenance of the pauper who does not reside in either of them. As between themselves, why should one be called upon to contribute upon a basis which is apparently totally inapplicable to the case.

61. Does the present mode of assessing the averages very much relieve the town parish and the populous parish?—No.

62. It leaves it very much as if the general parish paid for its own poor, does it not?—It makes it pay as a contribution towards the common fund, an amount proportioned undoubtedly to its own pauperism. I think the more equitable course is to treat the whole union as one parish, and require the whole union to contribute rateably for the maintenance of that which the legislature has thrown upon the whole of that district.

63. You have stated that it was only thrown on temporarily?—It is only temporary now.

64. It was only to stop a gap at first?—Yes; but it has been in operation for 10 years.

65. But what you propose would be to establish a union rating for a considerable portion of the population?—It would be so.

66. I think you said that it would be rapidly increasing year by year?—Yes.

67. That would be a way of drifting us into union rating, would it not?—It probably might; but I assume all the way through that union chargeability is to continue; it is another matter whether it should continue.

68. Mr. *Mills.*] Have you considered whether union chargeability should continue?—I think it a matter that requires a great deal of grave consideration; I am bound to say that there have been opinions expressed variously on both sides of the question by practical men.

69. Have you thought over in your mind how you would act; would you throw the chargeability back merely as a parochial settlement, or would you adopt any other means?—I am afraid it must be thrown back; the charge must take its former incidence; it was not contemplated in the slightest degree that the 9th & 10th of Victoria should have caused any alteration in the incidence of charge, further than this, that if the pauper was irremovable, and would become a charge on the parish of the residence. The statute of the 9th & 10th of Victoria contemplated that paupers rendered irremovable would continue. Accident has brought out the union chargeability as far as this class of paupers are concerned. If, upon the whole, it is deemed advisable to continue the union-chargeability, then I think the basis should be altered; but whether the union-chargeability should be continued at all is a very serious question, which requires very grave consideration.

70. Mr. *Tollemache.*] In the year 1834 the New Poor Law Act was passed?—Yes.

71. Then the common fund was established, on which what was called the establishment charges were thrown?—Yes.

72. In 1847 Mr. Bodkin's Act was passed which threw the charge of the irremovable poor also upon that fund?—Yes.

73. That fund is levied upon the pauperism of the parishes?—Yes.

74. I think you have also said that the present charge amounts to about 20 per cent. on the whole?—I have only given the cost of the irremovable poor.

75. At all events a very much larger sum has been thrown upon this common fund since Mr. Bodkin's Act was passed?—Certainly.

76. Have you had many complaints from different unions on that point?—Certainly.

77. Do you think that it has given great dissatisfaction, generally speaking, that so large a charge should be thrown upon the fund levied according to the pauperism of a district?—There has been great dissatisfaction exhibited on one side, but I suppose on the other side there is satisfaction.

78. Do you believe it works unfairly?—Yes, I think it does work unfairly. I think the creation of unions brings very glaringly out the inequalities of the assessment under the old system, and this additional charge tends still more to make that apparent.

79. If the mode of levying this rate were altered so as to make it levied according to the value of the property, instead of according to the pauperism of a parish, do you think, as a necessary consequence, we should drift into union rating and union settlement?—I do not know that there is any necessity to do so if Parliament should determine that the common fund is to be calculated upon the rateable value, and not upon the pauperism; it would only have that tendency provided it be made out that the union pauperism must increase to the extent of the general pauperism. Such may or may not be the result, which we can scarcely foresee, but in the three years we have just examined the statement is rather uniform; there is not a very considerable amount of variation; but I have a paper here which will show the extreme difficulty of explaining the operation of this union rateability, for when the different unions in the metropolis are looked at we find that in the metropolis where the unions, one would think, are much of the same character, the variation of the charge for the common fund paupers in proportion to the general relief is most singularly different. I have a return which shows, in the Poplar union, that the charge upon the common fund, in regard to irremovable poor, was 46 per cent. of the general relief of the union; in the city of London union it is only 10 per cent.; in Greenwich union it is 21 per cent.; in Lewisham union, next to that, it is 31 per cent.; in Stepney, not far from Poplar, it is only 18 per cent. and why these differences exist it is not easy to tell.

80. Mr. *Schnieder.*] What is it in Paddington?—That is not a union.

81. Mr. *Tollemache.*] With respect to the rural districts, as the law stands at present, the close parishes as they are termed, would have the power of throwing the burden greatly upon the other parishes; do you think that that has prevailed to any great extent?—It is hardly fair to put it in that way; to speak of throwing the burden—they have no burden to throw; they do not pay for the cost of any paupers, as they have none to maintain.

82. I mean a parish belonging to one proprietor; there are very few parishes that have not some poor to maintain; I ask you whether, as the close parishes certainly have, under the existing law, the power of throwing their poor upon the neighbouring parishes, you think that that practice has prevailed to any great extent?—*Pro tanto*, they must have some poor, it is true, but then, *pro tanto*, they are not close. If the parish is entirely close, then it has no poor, and has nothing to call upon its neighbours to contribute to; but supposing it to have some pauperism, then in proportion to its pauperism it does pay to the common charges.

83. Are you of opinion that that practice has prevailed to any great extent?—I must say that this is very debateable ground. I have heard it asserted, and I have heard attempts made to prove it. I doubt very strongly as to whether it has prevailed to any great extent. No doubt it has prevailed to some extent, but to talk of it as the practice of the country, I do not think there is any evidence to establish it. I have read a great deal about it, and I have heard statements which have

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have been made regarding it, but I have not been able to make out that the practice is established by authentic and genuine evidence, to any great extent.

84. There is a very valuable return, which was moved for by Mr. Knight, and which contains a variety of information upon this point; have you looked through it?—Yes; but not with a view to this particular point.

85. Mr. *Mills.*] Did not Mr. Buller turn his attention very particularly to the subject of close parishes?—Yes; he turned his attention very much to the general subject of a change in this law.

86. Did he not particularly employ Mr. Weale upon this subject, in Bedfordshire?—Mr. Weale made a very elaborate investigation relative to close and open parishes.

87. Was not this result come to, that what were called close and open parishes really did not exist to the extent to which it was supposed they existed?—Yes; that was the result of Mr. Weale's report, no doubt.

88. Mr. *Tollemache.*] When was that return made; was that after Mr. Knight's return?—No, previously to that. I think that one mode of testing this allegation, though it is a very laborious undertaking, would be to refer to the returns of the census, to see what was the number of houses that were existing in 1841 and the number in 1851. It will be curious to see this in 1861. Once or twice I have looked at the returns; but I have never seen sufficient to justify me in believing that it is anything like a general practice. It is very wrong to assume a general practice from isolated instances of conduct.

89. At present you are aware that there is a great local check to the increase of poor rates from each guardian being interested in keeping down the rates in his own township. If union rating and union settlement were adopted; have you ever considered in what way you could supply that local check?—I certainly have had that very much under my consideration, and that is one of the points upon which I should very much like to hear what the witnesses that will come before this Committee will say.

90. Have you turned your attention to that point very much?—Yes; but I should like to reserve my opinion upon that until I have heard what these witnesses will say.

91. What was the object of the Bill that was introduced by Mr. Baines?—That Bill was to abolish all settlement and removal, and to create unions for settlement and rating.

92. Did that Bill provide any check to supply the present local check?—None whatever.

93. There was no rigid system of audit proposed by that Bill?—No system of audit would have effected any sort of check or test whatever.

94. If the commissioners laid down certain rigid rules that only paupers of a particular class should be relieved, would not the auditor be bound to follow those rules, and strike out any relief, if it had been improperly given?—Yes.

95. In that way such rigid rules might supply to a certain extent the check which at present prevails?—Yes; but then that proceeds upon the hypothesis that the Poor Law Board would deem themselves justified in issuing regulations to prohibit relief of any kind.

96. Suppose such a Bill as Mr. Baines' was again introduced to have nothing but union settlement and union rating; could a provision be introduced which would supply a check to the increase of rates anything like the present check?—I am afraid not.

97. Mr. *Knight.*] When I was on the Poor Law Board in 1852, you gave me a very valuable paper to read on this subject; have you any objection to lay that before the Committee?—No, I have no objection; it was a communication that I made to Mr. Baines, and he returned it to me when he quitted the Board; it contained my views at that time upon the subject.

98. Colonel *Smyth.*] With respect to the union charges, from what description of unions do you receive most complaints as to the union charges?—I think the complaints come from unions of this character: where there is a very large town combined with a number of rural parishes; the board of guardians there generally feel that the town oppresses the rural districts; I think these are the cases where the greater number of complaints exist; at the same time the towns, in many instances, are not satisfied with the measure, because it has certainly not relieved them from a great amount of chargeability.

99. *Chairman.*] Do you know whether the Act of 1846, did or did not increase the number of applications from paupers, that is to say, that paupers who did not

not apply for fear they should be removed, as soon as the removability was altered, began to be applicants for relief?—Evidence was supplied to that effect, to a large amount, to the Committee which sat in 1847. It was then a new provision, and therefore a very considerable number of poor persons who had not applied for relief in consequence of their alarm about removal, did certainly make their applications, but at the present time I am not disposed to think that it has so much effect upon the present state of pauperism; I find that the number of paupers, at the present moment, is certainly not much larger, having reference to the increase of population, than it was before the passing of that Bill, taking this as the result of the returns for the kingdom in general.

100. Mr. *Schnieder.*] Do you not think that is very much caused by the great increase in the demand for labour wqich has occurred since the passing of that Act; the demand for labour being notoriously much less prior to 1847 than it has been prior to 1857?—It may be so; I hope that this is the case, that the country is better off in that respect, and therefore there may be a reduction in the amount of paupers consequent upon the improved state and condition of the lower classes.

101. *Chairman.*] Have you any means of knowing whether the condition of pauperism, affected by the Act of 1846, as laid before the Committee of 1847, would prove, upon investigation, to be pretty much the same as the state of pauperism as laid before now, or do you think that the evidence taken in 1847 was so soon after the passing of the Act, that you have no right to suppose that the same result has been arrived at in 1858?—I am not sure whether I could answer the question; I doubt whether anybody can accurately tell excepting the relieving officers, after making the very minute investigation which would be required to ascertain whether any alteration had taken place from that time to this. Immediately upon the passing of the Act it was not difficult to determine the question, as they could tell, in reference to this, the persons who made their applications, whether they applied in consequence of that Act. Now I doubt whether it is possible to trace it; the question being as to the operation of this particular statute upon the minds of destitute persons.

102. Do you think that in the year 1858 Parliament can depend upon the result of such an examination as was made in 1847, one year after the Act was passed as to the operation of it?—It is very difficult to say that it would afford a guide as to its effects at the present day; the relieving officer now only knows that an individual applies to him for relief, and he may think that if there was a power of removing that person to the parish of his settlement he would not apply, but it is a very vague suspicion; at the same time I must say, that I think if you took away the power of removal altogether, the case would be very different.

103. Mr. *Miles.*] All the legal questions now having been settled which first sprang up on the passing of the law in 1846, everything is quieted, and each union knows upon what ground it stands now, better than it did in the year 1847?—I am afraid that the settlement questions are not yet settled. It is only within a few months that the case of The Queen *v.* The Bedminster Union, has been settled. I should like to mention a class of cases that has not yet been brought under the notice of the Committee, which is with regard to vagrants and wandering poor. There is a considerable amount of hardship existing now under this head. Originally the vagrant poor could not be removed. The parish could not get rid of him, but by giving him a certain inducement to go away, but when the unions were formed, the common course was to send a vagrant to the union workhouse, and if he came, he had his loaf and glass of cold water; he then went his way. But a vagrant might stay in the union workhouse, and then the charge fell upon the parish where the union workhouse was situate, and that was a very heavy grievance to that particular parish. Mr. Buller's Bill attempted to remove the parish from that consequence, and it was thereby enacted that all the charges of that character for the relief of the vagrant poor should be borne by the common fund of the union. So long as the character of vagrant continues, so long as a person comes in at night and goes out in the morning, it is clear; but the vagrant may stay and remain in the house till the character of vagrancy is determined; he may stay there for a week or a month, or six months, and then the charge falls immediately on the parish of the residence, namely, the parish in which the union workhouse is situate. That works a great grievance in many cases. And a like grievance occurs in the case of union paupers sent to a workhouse

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in consequence of accidents. When they recover, instead of being chargeable to the parish from which they come, they are chargeable to the parish in which the union workhouse is situate, and that also works a grievance.

104. I conclude that you not only think it necessary that we should inquire particularly into the subject of the vagrant poor, and such poor as you have before mentioned, but likewise that the Committee should fully enter into the case of the irremovable poor, setting aside what was done by the Committee in 1846?—Yes; I think that is the object of your inquiry.

105. Mr. *Tollemache.*] I think you stated that most of the complaints came from unions in which some large towns are the centre?—Yes.

106. Have the complaints been confined to those unions, or have they also come from unions differently situated?—I do not remember any complaints from unions where the character is much the same throughout; such as a rural union, containing a number of small rural parishes; I think they are so nearly alike that they have no material grievance.

107. You have not received any complaints?—I have no recollection of any amount of complaints excepting from the class of unions that I more especially mentioned, where there is a large town with a number of small rural parishes connected with it.

108. I understood you to say that if Mr. Bodkin's Act were continued, then this common fund should be raised according to the value of the rateable property, and not according to the pauperism?—Yes, if Mr. Buller's Act is continued, Mr. Bodkin's is at an end.

109. In fact, if Mr. Buller's Act continues, you are of opinion that the common fund should be levied in a different manner?—Certainly.

110. If that Act were not continued, the irremovable poor under the existing law would be chargeable altogether in the townships in which they reside?—Yes.

111. What effect would it have on those townships, would it add to their grievance, supposing there to be one?—Yes, it would add to their grievances, but it would remove the grievance that comes from the great body of the guardians.

112. Suppose that they suffer by the poor being thrown upon them they have therefore a grievance to complain of; would it increase that grievance, the irremovable poor being altogether chergeable upon them?—The complaint that comes from the unions to which I have referred is the complaint of the majority; it is notthe town which complains, it is the rural parts of the union that complain, independently of the town.

113. I am speaking of those parties that do complain, the towns for instance, would it increase their rates considerably if the irremovable poor were altogether thrown upon them, and the amount taken out of the union fund?—Yes; but the complaints did not come from the town unions, or from those towns which form part of large unions. The complaint came from those unions in which the greater number of the guardians are rural guardians, and the town in that case is quiet and does not complain. If a large portion of those paupers who would be chargeable to the town are passed upon the common fund, the town does not complain, but the rural parishes do. If he altered the law the rural parishes will not complain any longer, though no doubt the towns may, they may say this Act is no boon to them.

114. Mr. *Schnieder.*] The effect would be this, that in proportion as the grievance fell upon one parish it would be diminished in another?—Yes, it would be shifted.

115. Mr. *Knight*] In the present way of assessing the averages the town gains very little, does it?—Probably not much; in many cases it does not gain much; by reason of contributing according to its pauperism it contributes a very large amount to the common fund.

116. It would gain largely if it was thrown equally on the union?—Not necessarily. The town is supposed to contain a large amount of rateable property; it would gain probably something, but not necessarily any great deal; this would depend upon the nature of the peculiar union; in some unions there would be a great gain to the town, in others the town would lose.

117. Colonel *Smyth.*] Generally the town would be a gainer?—Yes.

APPENDIX.

LETTER from *W. G. Lumley*, Esq., to the Right Honourable *M. T. Baines*, M.P., President of the Poor Law Board.

My dear Sir, London, 4 October 1850.

Appendix.

As you have given a promise to the House of Commons to bring forward a permanent and comprehensive measure on the subject of the settlement of the poor and the charge of their relief, and as I understand you wish to have my views on the subject, I have availed myself of a short leisure to express them on paper.

My object is to set forth what I think will be the most practical course to be pursued with reference to the present condition of unions and parishes in regard to these subjects.

I believe that you will seek to make as little change as possible, and to disturb to the least practicable extent the existing value of property.

But I must state that the alterations which have been made during the last 15 years in regard to the poor-rate, have so materially affected the incidents of its charge upon property, that no person could urge with any great force that even extensive changes would be wholly unjust towards him, or unlooked for. In scarcely any part of the kingdom has the relief of the poor and its cost remained as a charge of any uniform amount, or in any uniform proportion.

The new regulations for the administering of relief, the formation of unions, the creation of the common fund, the imposition of many charges upon that fund, in place of the separate parishes comprised in the union, the establishment of the irremovability of the poor, and lastly the imposition of the charge of their relief upon the common fund, have gradually affected property in all parishes to such an extent as to have demolished for the most part the force of the prescriptive claim, on the part of the owners of land and houses, to have no interference with the charge for the relief of the poor in their parishes.

Therefore, though changes should not be made without the justification of great general benefit, yet I do not think that any uninterrupted prescriptive right can be shown in favour of the existing state of things.

These two propositions may be laid down as certain in this paper.

First. You will not propose to Parliament to abolish the right of irremovability established by 9 & 10 Vict., c. 66.

Secondly. You will not propose to charge the relief of the poor upon the general consolidated fund, nor upon any general rate raised by any form of a national rate, either according to the plan suggested by Lord Malmsbury, or in any other manner.

But independently of these two propositions many other questions and proposals arise which must be considered.

The first is the general one, as to the maintenance or abolition of the law of settlement.

Upon this proposition it is perhaps important to consider that under the present operation of the laws of settlement the different modes of acquiring settlements appear to be gradually becoming extinct in regard to the vast body of the labouring poor, except in the case of women who acquire their husbands' settlements by marriage.

Settlement by hiring and service was that mode by which the labouring classes would ordinarily acquire a settlement, and this was wholly abolished by 4 & 5 Will. 4, c. 76.

Settlement by apprenticeship was probably at no time a very extensive mode by which settlements were acquired, it was open to great uncertainty in reference to the changes in the parishes of the residence and the formalities required for the creation of a legal binding, while the difficulties of the proof where the settlement was to be established in any court of law often led to an abandonment of it. A question, moreover, has arisen whether the new provisions of 7 & 8 Vict. c. 101, s. 12, by removing the interference of the justices with bindings by the guardians of unions (taken in connexion with 56 Geo. 3, c. 126, s. 5) has not entirely abolished this head of settlement in unions.

The renting of a 10*l.* tenement, which is to confer a settlement, is so high in amount, and is accompanied with so many modifications and restrictions as practically to place that settlement out of the reach of the lowest classes.

The payment of rates and taxes is also equally unavailing, and it is almost needless to observe that the acquisition of a settlement by estate is in itself very inconsistent with pauperism.

There is no doubt that great numbers of persons acquire settlements by these means, but those persons are not the individuals who become destitute and are thrown upon the poor-rates, for which class alone the laws of settlement are required.

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It follows that the settlements of paupers are either derivative, being derived from their parents, or in the case of married women from their husbands, or native resort being had to the places of their birth, or admitted parishes being concluded by the granting of non-resident relief on some former occasion under circumstances which cannot be explained.

As time runs on, the difficulties of proving the settlements of the last and the previous generations must necessarily increase, because, independently of other considerations, those settlements also will become more and more derivative only.

Hence recourse must be had to the place of birth, or to the evidence of previous non-resident relief. In regard to the place of birth of adult paupers, whose parents are dead, the requisites of the law of evidence impose great difficulties of proof, independently of those in point of fact which must frequently exist in such questions. No persons can know but by information the parishes in which they were born, and though persons of the middling classes, living for a considerable time in the same place, can generally preserve a recollection of their earliest abodes, which may be fairly presumed to have been those of their births, the wandering and uncertain condition of the lives of the lowest classes too frequently prevent the recurrence to this source for the information required in the determination of these questions.

If a law were passed to make the baptismal register, and the entry in the registrar's books sufficient proof of the birth for the purpose of the settlement, there would still remain the intricate question of identification, and I cannot omit to add my opinion that it will be found that among the lowest classes the neglect of baptismal, and all other registration, is and ever will be very common.

I am aware of the fact that in rural parishes, where the population is scanty, these difficulties may not be serious. There the individuals of all classes are known, traced, and identified. In regard to the poorer classes who remain there, or in the immediate neighbourhood, the short courses and few events of their lives are readily ascertained, and too commonly their necessities in the seasons of non-employment bring them before the parochial authorities so often as to render the parishes of their settlement known.

But when they stray from their homes, when they betake themselves to other agricultural districts, or to the great towns, or the metropolis, the difficulties to which I have adverted beset the inquiries which their destitution renders necessary.

Lastly, there remains the settlement which is determined by the granting of non-resident relief. I entertain a strong belief that this is now the great resort for finding out the settlements of paupers. The accurate records of the relief of the poor, which have been made and kept by the officers established in unions and parishes since the new poor law, render it comparatively easy to trace when relief was given to individuals residing in some parish, and was charged to some other parish as the parish of their settlement. Thus there has become a sort of traditional settlement with reference to many paupers.

But as the books and records accumulate, and the masses of paupers who have been relieved increase in the course of years, and the officers who may have had a personal knowledge of individuals and their settlements, fail by death or otherwise, this resource will gradually be lost.

Moreover it is necessary to bear in mind that in the unions where the general prohibitory order is in force, non-resident relief out of the union is prohibited, and therefore except where the exceptions authorised by the order exist, evidence of their admitted settlements in respect of paupers not residing in the union which comprises the parish of their settlement will daily become less accessible.

Again, the establishment of union chargeability necessarily tends to destroy this evidence. An irremovable pauper not being charged to any parish primarily, but upon the common fund at once, there is no admission of settlement in his case anywhere; all that is established is that the pauper is not settled in the parish where he had become irremovable. Hence, as the numbers of union paupers increase, and they already form a very large class of the paupers who are relieved, the admission of settlements by non-resident relief must proportionally be lost.

This is the result which I cannot but deduce theoretically from the present condition of the laws of settlement combined with the mode of the administration of the relief of the poor. No doubt practically there is not so much difficulty as to create as yet any great embarrassment.

The Boards of Guardians having to provide the relief, and to charge the cost to the proper fund necessarily take upon themselves to adjudicate upon the liability of the particular fund in the best manner they can, with the information which is supplied to them, and by compulsion, ignorance, acquiescence, or inattention, the pauper is charged in the ordinary course to the parish to which the Board of Guardians think he belongs, if that parish be within the union. If it be not, they open a correspondence with the guardians of the union, comprising the parish of the settlement where non-resident relief is permitted, and the latter Board decide the question without any judicial proceedings upon the information which their officers can acquire.

Still the law has not given to the guardians an absolute authority to decide any questions of settlement; and though they are justified in acting upon the consent or acquiescence of the parishes in their union they cannot control them, nor compel any parish to bear a charge in respect of an alleged settled pauper who does not reside therein, and has not been removed under an order of justices, where that parish refuses to admit the charge.

If, therefore, no other considerations intervened, I think it would soon become incumbent upon the Legislature to review the law of settlement with reference to its intrinsic practical bearing.

But

But the law of settlement taken in conjunction with the power of removal has now been questioned on other grounds.

Its justice and its policy are impeached. There was for a long period a feeling prevalent among the labouring classes that a settlement was a benefit to them. The parish of the settlement was in their belief bound to relieve them in their necessities, and they felt that they had no legal claim upon any other parish.

Therefore, the abolition of the settlement of a poor person while that feeling prevailed would have been treated as an injury by the lower classes. If the settlement could now be acquired by the act of the poor man labouring or exerting himself in any useful manner in a parish for a given period, it seems to me to be highly beneficial to encourage such a sentiment; and I should have thought that there ought to be no alteration of the law which would work a destruction of it. But I have shown that this is no longer the case; that for the present, and the coming generations the settlement can only be one of an accidental or arbitrary character; and that in the case of the great bulk of the poor, it will be one which is not the result of any act or conduct of their own, or associated with any recollections or incidents of their lives, calculated to excite in them any desire to receive there the relief of their destitution.

A poor man cannot feel any gratification in being removed in his old age to the parish where himself or his father was born, from which he has been absent from his youth, or to a parish where perhaps 20 or 30 years before he may have rented a cottage for a couple of years.

A settlement in itself has therefore now no intrinsic merit which should render it a desirable acquisition for a poor man. But it is an advantage to him in this respect that once there he is not liable to be removed from it when he requires to be relieved. This advantage can be obtained now by a more correct and legitimate mode, namely, by his abiding in a parish for a given length of time as an independent labourer without recourse to the parish funds.

I do not doubt that the feeling of the value of a settlement and of regard for it does exist in many inhabitants of those rural parishes to which I have already adverted. But those inhabitants are for the most part already living in the parishes of their settlement, or so near as easily to reach them of their own accord, or are sufficiently protected by the provisions of the late statute to render them liable to suffer the evils which result from destitution falling upon them in a parish other than that of their settlement.

No ground, therefore, for retaining the law of settlement is laid in any consideration of the feelings of the poor in favour of it.

But it is now urged that the law of settlement is unjust; that is to say, so far as it authorises the removal of a poor man upon his becoming destitute and applying for relief. A destitute man, though suffering under the extreme pressure of famine may not without permission relieve himself out of the goods of another. If he do so, he will be guilty of theft, and will be punishable for a crime.

In case of such destitution, he should apply to the overseer or the relieving officer, and shall from one or other receive relief.

But the law has subjected him to this consequence of his receiving the relief, namely, that he and his family shall upon such receipt be liable, under certain circumstances to be removed from the place where he is at the time residing, if it be not the place of his settlement, to some other parish, which may be possibly at a very considerable distance. This consequence, however, works so, that if an honest, hard working labourer become temporarily destitute in a parish he may be exposed to this removal; whereas an idle, ill-conditioned and worthless fellow, who may happen to be living in the same parish, will receive his relief there without any such result, because it is the parish of his settlement, it being perhaps the parish in which he was born. This example, and there are innumerable instances of the like kind, clearly show that the law operates unfairly upon individuals, inasmuch as the same act, namely, the application for relief, is attended with different consequences to different individuals. To one it produces no particular annoyance, to another it produces great misery.

But I cannot say that there is any abstract injustice in the provision of the law which has attached the liability to removal as a condition upon the receipt of relief. A man who has not provided for his own maintenance, and is compelled to be relieved out of the funds of others, which is the case of the poor who are relieved out of the poor-rate, cannot properly contend that there is any injustice in having certain conditions imposed upon him when he is so relieved at the cost of others. One of those conditions is the being removed to the parish of his settlement, the effect of which is to change the individuals who are liable to support him.

He may avoid the condition by declining the relief; if his destitution be not overwhelming he will probably do so, but if it be extreme, he must submit to the condition or starve. As far as he is concerned, the relief is a gift to him; he renders nothing in return for it, except in the particular cases where relief is granted by way of loan, and then the power of removal is rarely exercised.

All gifts may be made subject to conditions, and the granting of relief is not any exception to the general proposition. This consideration entirely removes the imputation of injustice.

It is again urged that the laws of settlement are impolitic. It is contended that the power of removal from any given parish to the parish of the settlement prevents the free circulation of labour. The labourer will not leave the parish of his settlement, because if he go elsewhere and should become destitute in any other parish, he will not obtain permanent relief there, but will be liable to be removed to the parish of his settlement at any time. This tends

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to keep labour accumulated in districts where it is already in excess, and to prevent its being dispersed and directed to districts where it is required. A congestion of labour in a particular district of a country where so much industrial activity prevails universally as in England is necessarily a social injury, and laws which create or keep up such a congestion have a mischievous tendency.

It must be admitted that the law of settlement in itself certainly has such a tendency. In a populous district it is highly probable that great numbers of the poor have their settlements therein. Consequently, the poor who migrate from it are in times of pressure and distress returned upon it, and increase the numbers already suffering in the district, whilst the apprehension of this consequence has doubtless heretofore acted strongly to restrain the natural impulse of youth to go abroad and change the scene of their labours.

Alterations have been made in the laws of settlement so far as they provide for removal of the poor by several statutes. The 35 Geo. 3, c. 101, abolished the most harsh and impolitic provision which, though perhaps not precisely contemplated by the framers of the 13 and 14 Charles 2, c. was the necessary result of it, namely, the power of removing poor persons from a parish, not because they had become chargeable, but because they possibly might become so.

This power was indeed unjust as well as impolitic, but it has been abolished for more than half a century.

Again, the power of removing the poor when suffering under severe sickness, wounds or permanent disease, has long been restrained by the statute which authorised suspended orders of removal.

Lastly, the great measure of 1846, namely, the Poor Removal Act, deals with numerous classes of the poor, and protects them from removal, under circumstances which either exhibit their own good conduct, or show that the cause of their destitution is some special calamity, which should be soothed rather than aggravated by the misery which is usually caused by removal.

But I believe that the progress of social improvements in modern times has so much increased the incentives and the facilities of migration to the labouring classes, that the laws of settlement have ceased to operate as a restraint upon them to any great extent in many, and probably in the largest number of the districts in England.

In the metropolis, or in the great cities and towns, the seaports, the manufacturing or the mining districts, I believe no one will find that either the labourer or the hirer of labour feels any difficulty in respect of the former having quitted the parish of his settlement to live and labour in some other parish.

Even from the rural and agricultural districts the labouring classes are continually sending forth, if not whole families, certainly large branches of them, into different districts of England, to labour in various avocations. An illustration of this will readily appear if you look at the domestic servants in the metropolis and large towns. These, on an examination, are found to be in a large proportion natives of the country, who have found their way to London, or those other towns and cities.

The cost of migration, and the natural disinclination of men to leave the abode which they have long occupied, and the neighbourhood with which they may have been long associated, operate necessarily to keep the labouring classes in certain parishes, notwithstanding the temptations which are offered in other districts. The effect of these motives is doubtless strong in the labourers in middle life who have young families dependent upon them.

But I believe that there is a very slight restraint practically caused by the law of removal as regards them.

Another effect is, however, produced by the law of settlement, which does work an injury and ought, if possible, to be remedied. I refer to the effect which it causes upon the minds of the owners and occupiers of property in rural parishes. A feeling of the responsibility for the maintenance of the settled poor of the parish induces the occupiers of property who have occasion for labour to employ such poor persons of their parish as are settled in it in preference, and even to the exclusion of others. The object which is contemplated is the preventing of the particular poor from becoming a charge on the poor-rate, it being considered that such a charge could not be shifted elsewhere. Whereas, if a poor person in the parish, whose settlement is elsewhere, become destitute, unless he be irremovable by the late statute, his charge will be but temporary, as he can be readily transferred to another parish.

The ordinary regard for personal interests naturally suggests the employment of the best labourer, irrespective of ulterior consequences. But in the humble classes of labourers there is much uniformity of skill, and therefore there is not much cause to bring this motive into operation. Where there is any considerable difference in regard to skill, industry, and conduct, it will doubtless be found that the non-settled labourer is not rejected for the sake of the settled labourer. But in cases of the partially competent labourer there is doubtless full scope for the operation of the motives referred to.

The late Removal Act has indeed introduced a new class of persons in parishes who, at first sight, would have appeared to have been entitled to the same favour as the settled poor, seeing that they are a class whose relief cannot be shifted upon any other parish. But this has not hitherto been the case. The exemption from removal only endures while the party continues to reside in the parish. If the residence be interrupted the exemption is lost, and the charge would not fall upon the parish of the abode.

Hence it was found out soon after the passing of the Act that every practicable means must be adopted to induce or compel the resident non-settled poor man to quit the parish

so that his residence might be interrupted. As a natural recourse his employment was discontinued or refused where it could be without much detriment to the employer.

So soon, however, as the relief of the irremovable poor was made a charge upon the common fund the interest was changed; but as this has not been established for a permanence, this change has not been sufficiently recognised.

If it were to be permanently established it would be obvious that the irremovable poor would be the most valuable labourers that could be employed, because independently of the inference of good conduct deduced from their continued residence without relief in the parish, their relief, in the event of their becoming destitute, would fall not upon the parish wholly, but upon the common fund of the union to which the parish would contribute but to a small extent.

It is often urged, and not without much truth, that a more kindly feeling exists in the inhabitants of a parish towards the poor who are settled in it than towards others who are not so settled. This feeling has doubtless descended in long tradition from the time when each parish was more isolated than at present, and the parish approximated to the nature of a family, all the poor members of which were settled in it.

But assuming that this feeling can be retained, which seems very doubtful in the changes daily worked, even in the most remote districts, it seems desirable that it should be directed rather towards the irremovable poor, who have necessarily been inhabitants of the parish for some length of time, than towards the merely settled poor whose sojourn in the parish may have been but for a few months.

So far then as the laws of settlement effect these feelings of preference of one class of poor in a parish over another, or lead to the refusal of employment to any industrious poor, they must be deemed to be at variance with sound policy; but after all it is very doubtful whether, regard being had to the great amount of employment in the kingdom, the feeling is so active and the effect so extensive as to require legislative notice.

I come, therefore, to the conclusion that the laws of settlement are not unjust, nor so far impolitic as to warrant interference on this ground.

Another question arises, as to whether any advantage results from them; and I think that a settlement of a poor man, involving a power of removal from the parish where he may not be settled, upon his becoming chargeable, has some advantages. A settlement in the first place authorises the charge of the relief being imposed upon some particular parish, when a pauper resides in it or has been removed to it. The ratepayers of that parish have an interest in the pauper's well-doing, so as to put an end to his destitution as soon as possible, by employing him or some members of his family, and they have an inducement to watch closely the conduct of the pauper, to ascertain that his destitution is genuine and not fraudulent, and that the relief is not continued when, by his own exertions, he may obtain adequate means of maintaining himself. This can only be effectually done where there is a prospect of a long permanent charge which cannot be shifted to another parish.

It is well known that little regard is paid to the poor, who, being non-settled where they are resident, are easily removed to another parish, on the happening of their chargeability, or to those whose relief is repaid as non-resident relief by the parish of the settlement to the parish of their residence.

It seems, therefore, that a settlement, so far as it creates a particular charge upon a parish, has its use and benefit, by creating a peculiar interest on the part of the officers and ratepayers of that parish, in the conduct and employment of the settled pauper.

But there is another advantage in this law with reference to the poor. The great difficulty which attends the administration of the relief to the poor exists in the uncertainty as to the real destitution of the applicants for that relief. Not only is it a matter of serious and anxious labour to determine between actual and simulated destitution, but it is a work of great pain to discover whether the applicant is driven to distress by unavoidable chances, or through idleness and neglect of opportunities. What is eagerly sought for is a test of destitution. The conditions imposed upon the grant of relief, namely, the offer of the workhouse or the demand of labour in return for the relief, are all tests of destitution, and modes by which it is sought to ascertain whether that destitution be real.

The power of removal to the place of the settlement is another test, and it is useful for this purpose: the idle, dissolute vagrant who wishes to have his abode where his own free will carries him, will not apply for relief, lest he should be removed to the parish of his settlement. The poor living in a parish, whose means, though scanty, may be increased by the exertions of themselves or their relatives, if subject to the liability of removal to another parish, will use their endeavours to avert this evil, by stimulating those exertions and abstaining from having resort to the parish funds; thus they preserve their independence and their good character, and those funds are saved from that charge which would otherwise be borne by them.

A striking illustration of the truth of this observation was exhibited after the passing of the Poor Removal Act; when the power of removal was taken away in the case of poor persons who had resided without relief for five years in the same parish, many poor persons came forward to seek relief in the parishes of their residence, who had previously been unknown as paupers, and who but for their exemption from removal, would have continued in the exercise of that toil which is the lot of the poor, but which they are naturally too eager to escape.

This removal is not, undoubtedly, without its evils; it is a severe measure to remove a family from their home to a place where they have no abode, perhaps no friend, kindred, or associates; where there may be no occupation or employment to which they have been

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accustomed, or to which they can adapt themselves, and where the temporary or occasional applicant for relief may be speedily converted into a confirmed pauper.

But these severe consequences necessarily render the test more effectual, as they increase in the poor man the dread of the result of applying for relief.

The power of removal, therefore, as it operates to stay the exercise of the vagrant action of the lowest classes, and to stimulate them to the greatest exertion to avoid its being put in force against them, appears to me to be a measure of public benefit.

If, however, the benefit resulting from the law of settlement and the power of removal be not considered as equivalent to the suffering and expense which are caused by its enforcement, and it should be proposed to abolish the law of settlement entirely, the question must then arise how and where the cost of the relief of the poor shall be charged. The ordinary poor, not being chargeable to the common fund, would fall necessarily upon the parish where their destitution occurs, while the common fund, which now bears the charge of the irremovable poor, would cease to be chargeable with any other than the vagrants, inasmuch as there would be no removable, and consequently no distinct class of irremovable poor.

The pressure upon particular parishes would become so unequal and severe that they would not bear it, and their demand for relief would be loud and irresistible. To meet the grievance, either some law of settlement would be reimposed, or the relief of the poor would be thrown upon a national rate.

My belief is, therefore, that a total repeal of the law of settlement must lead to the establishment of some national rate for the relief of the poor.

But a serious difficulty is now felt to establish a mode of acquiring a settlement, seeing the present condition of the subject as already pointed out. In Scotland the continuous residence of five years confers a settlement in the parish where it has taken place, and this regulation has certainly all the qualifications which appear to justify the peculiar privilege, as it is an evidence of the good conduct of the party, and of his deserving to be preserved from the hardship of removal. At the same time it shows that the parish has received a benefit from the poor person, which warrants an equivalent return from it in the shape of relief. As a fresh residence confers a new settlement, there is a constant incentive to the poor man to remain in the place where he is required to take up his abode, and not to wander in that spirit of vagrancy which the law, in furtherance of the principles of sound social policy, seeks to restrain.

But to establish this as a mode of settlement in England would provoke a reiteration of the complaints which have been so loudly urged against the provisions of the Poor Removal Act, whereby the relief of the poor was fixed upon the parishes of their residence instead of the parishes in which they worked; and moreover it would entirely remove the principal amount of the relief which is now charged to the common fund.

I am disposed to believe that a return to a settlement by hiring and service, or by service alone, with clearer rules than those which had previously been established, would be the most judicious course which could be pursued, still leaving the poor the power of acquiring an exemption from removal by their continued residence in any particular parish. Such a proposal would, however, require various modifications and regulations, and I only state it because it appears necessary to meet the defect, which must soon be felt in regard to the limited range of acquired settlements.

I think it probable that this subject will be pressed, and though it will suffice to decline at present to interfere with the laws of settlement, it may perhaps be deemed incumbent upon you to look forward and consider whether any measure can be introduced of a general character to effect the remedy which appears to be required.

In various quarters a union settlement is talked of and recommended. But this is a vague expression, and I do not precisely understand what is intended by it. At present the settlement of a pauper is peculiarly a parochial incident. All the modes of acquiring or deriving a settlement refer to a parish. Therefore it will not do simply to enact that the union shall be the area of the settlement. A new scheme of settlement must be conceived to carry out the proposal. Birth or marriage in any part of a union may constitute a settlement therein, so renting a tenement or payment of rates in any parish therein may have this effect; but, as already shown, these modes of acquiring a settlement have ceased to have much practical operation.

As to previous admissions of the settlement by the union there can be none. The Board of Guardians, in their corporate or common character, never could have made any admission of the settlement because they had no interest in the matter. It would, therefore, require an express enactment to render the union concluded by the admissions of the parishes within it. Such an enactment would be strange and hardly defensible.

The establishment of the union settlement would, of course, render it necessary that alterations should be made in respect of the modes of obtaining orders of removal, and of the process of litigating them. There would be no insuperable difficulty in doing this, though the introduction of new forms and new process necessarily leads to some confusion and embarrassment.

But so far as the settlement and the power of removal is concerned, what would be gained by the creation of the union settlement? The settlement being in a union instead of in one of the parishes in the union, would prevent any removal from one parish to another therein, but it would not prevent the removal of a pauper from one union to another. It will make no difference whether a pauper, on becoming destitute, be removed from the parish of Whitechapel to the parish of Truro, or from the Whitechapel Union to the Truro Union. To him the removal will be an equal hardship in each case.

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There would, indeed, be no removal between the parishes in the same union; but there is indeed very little of that at present. Orders of removal are occasionally taken out, but they are so almost always merely for the purpose of fixing the liability of the respective parishes, and not to effect the actual removal of the pauper.

So far, then, as the mere creation of a union instead of a parochial settlement is concerned, no advantage can be gained which would counterbalance the inconveniences resulting from the great changes which must be required to constitute a union settlement.

It must not be forgotten, also, that the establishment of a union settlement would, in many unions, remove in those unions themselves the check upon vagabondage which results from the law of settlement and the power of removal.

The creation of a union settlement necessarily involves a union rate, and that subject I will proceed to consider. I am only now examining the subject of the union settlement and the union removal.

The second general proposal relates to the fund to which the relief of the poor is to be charged. There are now in operation two funds, one a parochial the other a union fund; the former is permanent and long established, the latter is temporary and of a late origin. The first question upon this subject will be whether the union chargeability shall be continued or not.

The principle upon which Mr. Bodkin proposed his Bill to the House of Commons, and upon which the Legislature acted in adopting it, was entirely of a temporary character. He proposed to deal with a certain class of individuals whose cases would gradually cease as they changed their residences, died, or ceased to be paupers. The only object contemplated was the removal of a grievance which had been suddenly caused by an unexpected shifting of charges from some parishes to others. It was not proposed to repeal the law which caused this grievance; it seemed difficult to suggest any mode, consistent with the Removal Act, of adjusting the claims and charges between the respective parishes, and a plan of casting the burden on a fund which in no respect could have incurred any liability to it was adopted without any principle to justify the enactment.

Mr. Buller's proposition, which followed Mr. Bodkin's in the ensuing year, certainly proceeded upon a general principle. He extended the charge upon the common fund from the fleeting and limited class contemplated by Mr. Bodkin to the whole of the classes provided for by the Poor Removal Act. He contemplated a permanent charge in respect of various classes of poor who were sure to continue.

But his proposal involved a material alteration in respect of the incidence of the charge for the relief, inasmuch as he proposed to charge the common fund paupers upon the several parishes in the union according to the relative values of property in those parishes. At the same time that he created a general class of union paupers, who were to be chargeable to the common fund, he proposed to alter the mode by which that common fund was to be raised.

But this part of his proposal was not carried out by him. He created the common charge, but omitted for the time to provide that special scale by which the contribution to the common fund was to be calculated and regulated. The measure which he succeeded in carrying was temporary only, and provided, as above noticed, for the creation of the union paupers for a year.

His death prevented the fulfilment of his design, but the union chargeability as constituted by him has been continued for another year.

Thus the country has for more than two years become accustomed to union charge ability, that is to say, to the charge for the relief of certain paupers upon a larger area than a parish or township.

The imposition of this charge is doubtless a relief to the parishes which are greatly affected by the change caused by the Poor Removal Act, and to those parishes which would have otherwise borne the charge, and who may reasonably expect that this law may be repealed, and their former liabilities restored.

I think, therefore, that the repeal of this Act, or the suffering it to expire, would not be generally satisfactory, if considered with reference merely to the questions which have arisen upon the new charges.

But the creation of this modified union chargeability was approved of by those who have proposed the general extension of the area of chargeability in all cases. Their views were, at least, forwarded by this measure; and they will object to any abandonment of the advance which has been made by this indirect proceeding.

I can find no principle by which this new charge can be justified, except upon the ground of the gradual extension of the charge for the relief of the poor to a more enlarged area than that of a parish. If it be determined that this charge shall be extended to a union, so as to cast the burthen more uniformly over given districts than can be done in the case of a parochial liability, it is a reasonable and convenient course to proceed gradually by imposing that charge in the first place in respect of particular classes only upon the union.

This proposal to extend the area of chargeability arises from the evidence, which is now daily exhibited, of the unequal mode in which the charge for pauperism is imposed upon property. The charge heretofore has been parochial, and parishes are mere arbitrary and irregular divisions of the country, formed without any apparent reference to population, and certainly not capable of being modified according to its increase or decrease. Hence, where the population is scanty, the charge for relief must be low; where the population is abundant, poverty and destitution will be prevalent, and the cost of pauperism will be great. It is contended that this is unfair and unjust, and that the charge should be spread equally

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over the whole kingdom; and, as this cannot be done except by a national rate, which is open to grave objections, the incidence of the charge may be extended to a union or a county. By this means the thinly peopled parishes (termed the close parishes) would be made to bear their equal proportion of the charge, and the heavily burthened parishes would obtain relief. It is urged that the close parishes receive the benefit of the labour of those who living out of them in the populous and urban parishes to which they adjoin, fall in their destitution as a charge upon the latter, to the exemption of the former.

I have a strong belief that there is much exaggeration as to the number and extent of the close parishes. I think that too much has been made of some isolated cases of selfish and misguided conduct, and that there is no great amount of dismantled cottages and wilful disregard of the labourers actually to be met with.

But the inequalities of charge arising from various incidental causes, not only in rural parishes, but in urban and suburban parishes, are too great to be denied.

The parish of the residence has not, however, been wholly without its compensation. The wages may have been earned and actually paid in the close parish, but they have been spent in the parish of the residence. The landlord or the farmer in the close parish has realised the benefit of the labour expended in the cultivation of the land; the owner of the tenement, and the shopkeepers of the parish in which the labourer has resided, have been enriched by the payment of the rent and the shop goods, out of the wages earned elsewhere.

This compensation is not obvious, and cannot be readily ascertained or appreciated; whereas the inequality of the rates is distinctly shown. The cry of complaint has gone forth, it has been admitted by the highest authorities, and must now be hushed, if not by total acquiescence in the call for the national rate, at least by palliatives.

I think, therefore, that a union chargeability must be continued, and that to its present extent it should be made permanent. As the Legislature have thought proper to make the relief of vagrant and casual poor, as well as the several classes of irremovable poor, a charge upon the common fund in unions, by way of experiment, and the experiment appears on the whole to be approved of, that charge should now be made permanent upon the common fund.

In regard to the vagrant poor, it is right to observe that in unions there is a fair and reasonable ground why their relief should form a charge upon the common fund. They are relieved almost wholly in the workhouse, to which they resort for shelter and temporary refuge. A union workhouse is the property of the union, it is the receptacle of the union, and is legally and properly located in the whole district to which it belongs. The paupers, who belonging to no parish therein, seek relief at the workhouse, are therefore properly treated as the paupers of the whole union, and not as the paupers of the particular parish wherein the workhouse happens to be situated, or where they make their application for relief.

Upon every ground, therefore, the cost of the relief of these paupers should be made a union charge permanently. But the law requires an amendment in respect of this class, as questions arise as to when the abiding in the workhouse removes that character of vagrancy which was the ground upon which the union fund was charged.

It seems to be most correct that a fund which has been once charged, should continue to bear the charge until the pauper has done some act to discontinue his chargeability, and to justify the incidence of the cost of any future relief upon some other fund.

So long, therefore, as the vagraut pauper continues an inmate of the union workhouse, it should be declared that the cost of his relief should continue to be borne by the common fund.

But, as already noticed, it has been urged by many that there should be an extension of the union chargeability to all the paupers in the union, so as wholly to determine the parochial charge in unions, and to make the union the district for relief in place of the parish. Independently of the general rule, consolidation of parishes for the purpose of relief is sought for in many districts of peculiar constitution. This was promised by Mr. Buller in his experimental Bill, and was again brought forward by Mr. Adair in his Bill during the last session.

There are doubtless many unions, particularly those which comprise cities and towns, where there are numerous parishes compressed within a narrow circuit, in which great variation exists in regard to the charge of their poor. Here it is said the consolidation might be fairly and properly effected, the confusion resulting from settlements in the parishes contained in the narrow space, should be avoided, and the charge rendered a common one through the whole district; where, indeed there is already in almost all matters a general community of interests and responsibilities.

It may be admitted that in such places the law of settlement supplies little of those advantages which I have pointed out above as resulting from that law. In a parish belonging to a city or town, there will perhaps be no great deal of vigilance exhibited by ratepayers in respect of the paupers belonging to it; and the removing of the poor from one parish therein to another, takes place without any great amount of vagabondage. On the other hand, so far as the poor man is concerned, the exercise of the power of removal there does not work much evil to him, if the removal be interparochial in the city or town.

Much simplicity, some saving of expense, by the extinction of the orders of removal, and a great equalisation of charges would doubtless result from such an enactment. It will not be forgotten that this has been done in many places, as many of the large cities and

and towns, such as Bristol, Norwich, Southampton, Chichester, Oxford, Chester, are consolidated under particular Local Acts, with much satisfaction, as regards the inhabitants and ratepayers of those places.

But this proceeding must necessarily produce a great effect upon the value of the property in the several parishes. Such of those parishes as have been heretofore wholly, or to a large extent, exempt from the charge, have enjoyed a corresponding proportionate increase in the value of the property contained. Such property has been purchased, or demised with a consideration of the absence, or insignificance of the poor rates, and consequently any alteration in the charge for the relief of the poor, which should throw a burthen upon that property, would to that extent interfere with the rights of property.

I cannot, however, estimate this evil as one of so great an amount as to offer a serious ground of objection to the proposal to consolidate some of the existing unions for the entire maintenance of the destitute poor in them.

A careful examination should be made of the particular districts where such consolidation should take place, and either the Legislature should expressly fix the districts, or the Poor Law Board should do so upon their public responsibility. In these places provisions will be required to create a union settlement, and to enable it to be enforced.

But as regards all unions in general, I cannot, after much consideration, acquiesce in a universal consolidation, and the transformation of all the paupers therein into union paupers, and the creation of the single union rate. I believe that in the event of such consolidation being effected, there would be so great a listlessness and unconcern on the part of the different members of the Board of Guardians, as would in the main render their administration of the law an idle mockery.

If the relief of the pauper is to be borne by the common fund, no guardian who represents a small parish in it, need give himself the trouble to investigate any case. The cost to his parish will be so small as a contributor to the common fund, that the trouble of the investigation would not be recompensed by any saving which he can effect. The union paupers would thus become the common business of all the guardians, but in fact the particular concern of no one. This result would prevent the useful working of the law.

In the Docking Union the proposition, so far as it involves the absence of interparochial settlements, has been now established for a couple of years. The experiment is too recent to afford adequate evidence of its success or its failure.

It has been proposed to introduce this consolidation in unions gradually, different classes of paupers being consolidated in progression. Some persons have recommended that the able-bodied labourer should be charged upon the common fund, others the feeble, aged, and infirm; again, it has been urged that certain portions of the cost should be borne by that fund by degrees, a smaller portion at first with a graduated progression afterwards.

By any of these courses the valuation of property would be brought to submit to the increased charge by slow and gradual degrees, and perhaps in a way almost imperceptible. These proposals may fairly dispose of the complaint which arises as to the effect of the change upon the property; but they do not destroy the advantages which I have pointed out as resulting from the law of settlement, with reference to the poor.

The relinquishment of the parochial chargeability will work so great a relaxation of the vigilance required in the due administration of relief, as will far outweigh in general evil the benefit which may be expected to result to particular parishes, from the equalisation of the charges.

I have been informed by some chairmen in regard to union paupers, that though there is much care and attention paid to the ascertaining whether the pauper should be charged to the common fund, or to the parish, yet when it is determined that the common fund will be charged, there is great laxity in investigating the circumstances and necessities of the case, and awarding the relief, if the strict regulations of the commissioners do not apply. At the same time, I have been told by some of the inspectors that no such distinction does prevail, that the union paupers are strictly looked after, and sometimes almost harshly treated, that they may be induced to quit the parish where they reside, and thus relieve the common fund. In this conflict of testimony I feel much reliance upon the effect which I should naturally expect to take place. I am prepared to admit that where the paupers in a union are relieved uniformly by reference to a scale, that scale will be applied to a union, as to any other pauper. But what I refer to is the laxity in determining upon the real merits of the applications for relief in the cases of union poor.

The stimulus to employ labour at times when the employment is not sensibly remunerative, is created by the apprehension of increased rates in the parish, arising from the destitution of the unemployed labourer chargeable to it. This incentive will fail when the charge will fall upon a large district, and scarcely be felt by the parish where the labourer dwells, or where the land or other subject of the labour may exist.

To secure the above vigilance, and to keep this stimulus in full activity, I think we must retain parochial chargeability to some extent.

But there is one class of paupers the cost of whose relief should in all cases be borne by the common fund, unless it be transferred to the consolidated fund, or to the county rate. I refer to the cost of the maintenance of pauper lunatics in asylums or licensed houses under orders of justices.

A pauper lunatic is one whose destitution arising from his peculiar malady, cannot be treated as a social evil for which the parish should be considered as responsible by reason of not supplying adequate employment. It must be looked upon as an accident, and, in

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fact, often occurs in parishes where there is little pauperism, and slight cause to produce it.

If the Legislature had not interfered with the case, but had allowed the overseers or the other authorities who have the control of the administration of relief to deal with it as they might have found most practicable, it might have been considered that the parish should bear the charge as it does that of other cases of relief, which may prove more or less heavy in amount.

But this is not the case. It has been deemed proper with views of police, and the general preservation of the public from the unrestrained violence of lunatics, to require that they shall be removed to custody in particular asylums, and there maintained till they are cured, or until their death. The cost of their maintenance in these asylums, from various circumstances is necessarily very expensive; and it is therefore no unreasonable proposition that as the general welfare of the nation at large has required that this expense should be incurred in respect of these unfortunate individuals, the nation at large should either bear the whole expense, or at least such a proportion of it as may exceed what would otherwise have been probably expended in the relief which the parish would have supplied.

It is true that in the incipient stage of lunacy a removal to an asylum often effects a cure; and consequently, that, however expensive the asylum may be, the parish is benefited by this early care, and ought not to be grudged the charge. This observation, however, wholly fails in respect of the chronic lunatics, whose charge is, in fact, the subject of the grievous complaints often made.

To prevent any improper attempt to throw upon the State the maintenance of the harmless idiots and the imbecile persons whose state does not require confinement in an asylum, it may be thought right to provide that the relief during a given period (say the first year) should not be borne by the consolidated fund, but only the subsequent maintenance.

There would, however, be so much complication in the accounts, and so much confusion in making out the proper charge, that it would most probably be considered inexpedient to make the distinction. I think it right to add that the Committee of the House of Lords which sat in 1846, to investigate the subject of the burdens affecting real property, submitted in their report "that the charge for the maintenance of pauper lunatics throughout the Empire ought to be undertaken by the public."

But if the Government decline to undertake the charge of these paupers, I think that the charge should be borne by the county rate, or in default thereof, by the common fund of the union, where the parish responsible is comprised within one. The only ground for charging it upon the common fund is that the cost of the lunatic pauper is very heavy, and is consequently a heavy charge upon the parish. The lunacy is a peculiar calamity, which, as already noticed, arises from no neglect on the part of the parish, and cannot be obviated by any special care on the part of the parochial authorities. It seems, therefore, that there should be a general contribution to the cost of this relief, and that the county which provides the asylum might fairly be called upon to support the pauper inmates who come from it to that asylum; and the county rate should bear the charge of the maintenance of the lunatics as it bears the charge of the maintenance of the criminals who are confined in its gaols.

If the Legislature will not impose the charge upon the county rate, then it should be borne by the common fund of the union.

Now, assuming that the common fund of the unions is to be charged permanently with the cost of the relief which has been hitherto temporarily imposed upon it, an inquiry arises as to how the common fund, which is to bear it, shall be raised.

At present the common fund is raised by contributions according to averages fixed with reference to the actual cost of the relief in the several parishes. So long as the common fund was applied to the purposes contemplated by the Poor Law Amendment Act, this was a proper standard to be referred to. The common fund was applicable to the providing in various ways to the due administration of relief in the union. Therefore, according as the relief of the poor in any parish was great or small, its demand upon the general provisions for the relief will be in such proportion. Hence its contribution to the common fund should be great or small, and is fairly estimated by reference to the amount of the relief previously granted to its own poor. But in regard to the charge of the irremovable and vagrant poor which has been cast upon this fund, the parishes have no peculiar interest therein, and there is no ground for their contributing to the cost with any reference to their own poor. Nevertheless, this is the scale according to which the charge has been heretofore fixed.

I consider that in this respect an alteration should be made. A pauper chargeable to the common fund, or in other words a union pauper, should be considered as one falling upon the union as the enlarged district to bear the relief. That district should contribute to the relief of this pauper uniformly and equally, and as the cost of the relief of the poor of a parish is cast upon the whole of the real property in it, the whole of the real property in a union should equally contribute to the maintenance of the paupers whose relief is imposed upon the common fund.

Hence, therefore, it follows that the cost of the maintenance of the union paupers should be borne by a common fund raised according to the value of the property of the respective parishes comprised in the union, irrespective of the individual pauperism of those parishes.

By this means all the property will equally contribute to the charge, and the close parishes as well as the open ones will be subject to the same scale, and the same measure of

of contribution. The owner of the former, where he does act upon it, will lose the great motive which induces him to keep down the cottages in his parish, because whether the labourer inhabits his parish or the neighbouring one, the result will be the same to him when that labourer has acquired his exemption from removal.

It will doubtless be some inconvenience that there should be two distinct contributions to the common fund of a union by the several parishes, one proceeding according to one scale, the other proceeding according to a different scale. This inconvenience will, however, resolve itself merely into a matter of account, and will not be attended practically with any serious evil.

The guardians will require each parish to pay a gross sum as a contribution to their treasurer, and this sum will comprise the particular amount chargeable on the parish in respect of their own poor, another amount in respect of the common or establishment charges, and a third in respect of the union paupers. As it is, the contributions are occasionally calculated upon different averages in cases of outstanding loans, which may have been contracted upon different averages from those in force with reference to the current charges.

I believe that this course will tend ultimately as the number of union paupers increase, to equalise by gradual steps the charge upon the several parishes in unions; and I think that the union poor who arise from the continued long residence of the industrious poor in the same parish will increase when the occupiers in parishes discover that their true interest is to encourage the abiding of non-settled poor with them instead of effecting their removal.

Some difficulty may exist in ascertaining the true and correct valuation of some parishes in the unions; but this will only work a slight defect in the proper amounts of contribution, and will not prove a serious evil; however, such as it is it may be readily obviated by the Legislature giving means to the Board of Guardians where they may require it, of ascertaining the proper valuation of any particular parish with the view of adjusting the charge.

I cannot, therefore, recommend the abolition of either the parochial or the union chargeability, generally, as each now exists; though I would make a slight addition to the latter, and would introduce a serious alteration in regard to the measure by which the amount of contribution to the common fund is to be estimated.

My proposals, therefore, may be thus expressed:

1. I would not abolish the law of settlement; but inasmuch as the modes of acquiring a settlement have ceased to be generally available to the lowest class, I would recommend the mode of acquiring a settlement by a service in any particular parish for a given length of time, namely, one year or more.

2. I would retain the Poor Removal Act, and render it still available to a poor man, notwithstanding his power of acquiring a settlement.

3. But I recommend that this Act should be freed from some of the difficulties which at present beset it, and that the penalties for its violation should be placed on a better footing.

4. I advise that the parochial chargeability be still retained, except in respect of lunatic paupers, and that the present union chargeability should be made permanent with the addition of a liability for the maintenance of pauper lunatics in asylums, or licensed houses, under orders of justices, if the Government will not undertake their charge nor impose it upon the county rate.

5. But I also consider it of the greatest importance that the contribution in unions to the relief of the union paupers should be estimated by reference to the value of the property in the several parishes of the union, and not to the averages of the expenditure for the relief of the poor in those parishes.

6. As a collateral and independent proposition, I think that it is desirable that facilities should be given to Boards of Guardians to determine the settlements of paupers in the parishes of the union, in cases where the late removal Act has no operation.

7. For this purpose, I think the proposal set forth in the Bill of 1846 should be now brought forward, whereby the Boards of Guardians were empowered to decide between the parishes in their union, with an appeal to the Poor Law Board against their decision where the parishes may be dissatisfied.

8. It also appears that some protection should be afforded to the guardians against the conduct of parishes in throwing their poor upon the common fund. It is naturally a struggle on the part of the guardians to keep paupers off this fund, and on that of the parishes to place them upon it.

9. There is no definite course to be pursued by the parties, and contrary courses are adopted in different unions. Some boards of guardians will not admit any union paupers unless the parish prove, with all formalities, that the paupers are settled elsewhere and are irremovable. In other unions where the guardians have not deemed themselves justified in laying down any such rule, the overseers simply allege that their paupers are chargeable to the common fund, and call upon the guardians to prove the contrary.

10. The Poor Law Board have frequently endeavoured to mediate between these parties,

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and have advised a more discriminating course, but with indifferent success; and it seems to be desirable that the union should be empowered to employ an officer who, being under the ordinary responsibility of poor law officers, would do justice between both parties, by investigating the cases and determining for them, subject to the appeal to the Poor Law Board which now exists, when the relief should be charged to the common fund and when not.

It may perhaps be necessary to refer to the proceedings of the Committees in the House of Commons and the House of Lords, which have considered these subjects and reported upon them.

The Committee of the House of Commons which sat in 1847 received a great deal of evidence, and examined most carefully the subject of the law of settlement, passed certain resolutions wherein they denounced the law of settlement and removal, and resolved that it was injurious. They came to the conclusion that the law of settlement should be entirely abolished, and that the area for relief should be increased.

It is easy to pass abstract propositions in general terms, but the difficulty arises in providing for the consequences of those propositions if carried into execution. Thus, though the Committee were able to pass those resolutions, and felt no hesitation in deciding that the laws of settlement and the law of removal ought to be repealed, they were constrained to admit that this alteration of the law would effect a great change in the relations of property, and that some provisions should be made to obviate as far as possible the result of these changes. They also approved of the union as a proper area for the charge of the relief.

It appears, however, from the result of their deliberations that they were not able to agree upon any plan by which this could be effected. They passed these abstract propositions, and agreed to report them to the House of Commons, but were unable to recommend to the House any practical plan which would avert the consequences of their resolution or effect the change which they had contemplated.

I do not think, therefore, that in dealing practically with a subject of this kind you will be embarrassed by the report of a committee, which though agreeing to certain propositions in themselves undeniable, have not been able to suggest any remedy for the evils which they contemplate, nor any supplement for the measures which they would destroy.

The Committee of the House of Lords, which sat this last year to consider the subject of parochial assessments, have left untouched the law of settlement and removal, and have reported that they have received no evidence which induces them to recommend any general system of union rating.

This is a cautious report. The committee do not express any opinion of their own as to the policy or impolicy of such a measure. But this negative report is enough to show that the committee were not favourable to it.

As, therefore, you will have to submit propositions to Parliament which you will seek to carry through the Legislature, and as it appears that though the majority of the Committee of the House of Commons were ready to adopt any practical measure for a union rating, but could suggest none, and the Committee of the House of Lords were unable to satisfy themselves of the policy of this scheme as a general measure, you will doubtless deem it advisable to consider what you can carry through both Houses of Parliament, rather than what is most agreeable to abstract propositions, perhaps theoretically true, yet in the present state of our country impracticable.

I think that the proposals which I have laid down, though requiring some elaboration in detail, are not in themselves very serious alterations of the law as it now exists. They will undoubtedly materially affect many interests, an evil not to be avoided by any means; yet no general principles of the law will be altered, at the same time that the proposals will meet adequately the present cry for change.

With these observations I close a paper which you may find uninteresting and tedious, but as my experience has been extensive in regard to this subject, and my opinions are the result of considerable deliberation, I have deemed it proper to lay them before you.

I am, &c.,
(signed) *W. G. Lumley.*

To the Right Honourable M. T. Baines, M.P.
President of the Poor Law Board.

REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

IRREMOVABLE POOR;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
29 *June* 1858.

374.

Under 8 *oz.*

REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

COUNTY RATES (IRELAND);

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
13 *July* 1858.

Veneris, 4° *die Junii*, 1858.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Cause for withholding certain Grants sanctioned by Parliament in 1846, in aid of County Rates in Ireland, for the following purposes:—Maintenance of Convicts and Convicted Misdemeanants in County Goals; Expenses of Witnesses in Criminal Prosecutions at Assizes and Sessions; Half Medical Relief and Salaries of Schoolmasters in Poor Law Unions, similar Grants having been made from April 1846 to 1858 in England and Wales; and further, to consider whether any equitable equivalent exists in respect of Grants made or Repayments remitted, as regards Ireland, in aid of Local Rates, which has not been made or remitted as regards England and Wales.

Jovis, 10° *die Junii*, 1858.

Committee nominated of—

Mr. Macartney.	Mr. Fortescue.
Sir Robert Ferguson.	Mr. Hamilton.
Sir Brooke Bridges.	Mr. Henry Herbert.
Colonel French.	Mr. George Clive.
Mr. Miles.	Mr. Wilson.
Mr. Cumming Bruce.	Mr. Grogan.
Mr. Gladstone.	

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Martis, 13° *die Julii*, 1858.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to report their Observations, together with the Minutes of Evidence taken before them, to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Cause for withholding certain GRANTS sanctioned by Parliament in 1846, in aid of COUNTY RATES in *Ireland*, for the following purposes:—Maintenance of Convicts and Convicted Misdemeanants in County Gaols; Expenses of Witnesses in Criminal Prosecutions at Assizes and Sessions; Half Medical Relief and Salaries of Schoolmasters in Poor Law Unions, similar Grants having been made from April 1846 to 1858 in *England* and *Wales*; and further, to consider whether any equitable Equivalent exists in respect of Grants made or Repayments remitted, as regards *Ireland*, in aid of Local Rates, which has not been made or remitted as regards *England* and *Wales*;——HAVE considered the Matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following REPORT:—

YOUR COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the cause for withholding certain grants sanctioned by Parliament in 1846, in aid of county rates in Ireland, for the following purposes:—Maintenance of convicts and convicted misdemeanants in county gaols; expenses of witnesses in criminal prosecutions at assizes and sessions; half medical relief and salaries of schoolmasters in poor law unions; similar grants having been made from April 1846 to 1858 in England and Wales; and further, to consider whether any equitable equivalent exists in respect of grants made or repayments remitted, as regards Ireland, in aid of local rates, which have not been made or remitted as regards England and Wales, have given their attention to, and called witnesses before them upon the subject of the reference. They find by an extract from the speech of Sir Robert Peel, when proposing alterations in the commercial policy of England, and the abolition of the Corn Laws, that he recommended certain grants to be made annually by Parliament in aid of county rates in Great Britain and Ireland: *Vide* Appendix.

1stly. That the remaining half of the expense of maintaining prisoners in Great Britain and Ireland, who were under sentence for felony or misdemeanor should be paid by the Treasury, and be provided for by an annual vote, estimating the sum of which this would relieve the counties at 64,000 *l.* a year.

2dly. In case of England and Ireland, that that portion of the charge of the expenses of prosecutions which was borne by local rates, should be borne altogether by the public Treasury, estimated in England at 100,000*l.*, in Ireland 17,000*l.*

3dly. That the whole charge of the police force in Ireland should be defrayed by the public Treasury, a portion of which had been borne by the land; this recommendation has been fulfilled. No promise appears to your Committee to have been held out to Ireland as regards the payment of half the medical relief to Ireland, as it was then stated that Ireland was under a different law with respect to medical relief, nor do they find any mention whatever as regards a provision for Irish union schoolmasters and auditors. Nevertheless, since 1848, official auditors have been appointed for unions in Ireland, the salaries of whom have been paid by the Treasury.

As regards the first head; viz., the expense of maintaining prisoners in Great Britain and Ireland, your Committee find that in England the Government established some years ago a maximum of 4 *s.* a week, as a repayment to

the counties for the expense of food, fuel, clothing, and bedding; nothing is
79, *et seq.* given beyond that maximum of 4 *s.*; but in all cases in which the cost comes to less, the actual outlay only is repaid. The Treasury bears the expense from the day of conviction to the day of discharge; and all classes of prisoners are included in this charge who have been convicted of felonies and the class of misdemeanors specifically stated in the Act of 7 Geo. 4.

In Ireland, the Government pays for the maintenance of military prisoners, and for those who are prosecuted for breach of the Revenue Laws, for the prisoners sentenced to penal servitude and transportation, at the rate of 4 ½ *d.* a day for males and 3 ½ *d.* a day for females. This scale has been in operation since the 1st of January 1853. Previously to that date payment for each convict did not commence until 30 days after conviction; since then payment takes effect immediately after conviction. The amount estimated annually for the maintenance of prisoners, excluding those above-mentioned as paid for by
238. the Treasury, will be, according to Mr. Hervey's calculation, 12,500 *l.* a year, and in future a payment of 5 *d.* a day would provide for such maintenance.

Your Committee recommend that Government should fully carry out Sir Robert Peel's proposition as regards the payment of the maintenance of convicted prisoners; and that for the future every class of convicted prisoner or misdemeanant which is paid for by the Treasury in England, should be paid for likewise by the Treasury in Ireland, adopting in Ireland, as in England, a maximum, beyond which no payment should be made, subject to the same check and regulation which are applied in England.

As regards the second item, viz., the costs of prosecutions, the whole of the costs of prosecutions formerly payable out of the county rate in England are now borne by the Government, and similar allowances are made in Scotland.

There appears to have been no difficulty in then forming an estimate of this charge in England, as one moiety was already repaid by the Treasury.

The same means of calculation, however, appear not to have existed in Ireland, as certain Crown prosecutions were paid in that country antecedent to 1846, which are included in the estimates under the head of "Prosecutions and
200. other Law Charges in Ireland," and there has been no change in that system since 1842. Sir R. Peel, however, calculated that the annual charge of prosecutions in Ireland, under the heads not included in the above charges, would amount to 17,000 *l.* a year; the framers of the estimates, however, for that year, took 9,000 *l.* for the last half, and 18,000 *l.* a year for the years 1847-48, 1848-49, 1849-50. It appears from evidence that no part of these sums has been issued in aid of local charges, while a portion of them was expended under the head of the Estimates above referred to.

Your Committee recommend that, subject to the regulations of the Treasury, such costs of prosecutions as are paid in England and Scotland from the Parliamentary Vote should also be paid in Ireland.

Although your Committee are of opinion that no promise was held out by Sir R. Peel that the half of the medical relief in Irish unions would be granted, owing to Ireland being then under a separate law, as regards medical relief, from England and Scotland, yet, inasmuch as since January 1852 the system of medical relief has been altered, and the charge placed on the poor-rate, the laws in Ireland being thereby assimilated to those in force in England and Scotland; your Committee recommend to Her Majesty's Government to take into consideration the claims of Ireland to a grant of the half cost of medical officers in unions, with the view of providing for the same in future, as is now the practice in England and Scotland.

13 *July* 1858.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Mercurii, 16° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Herbert.	Mr. Gladstone.
Sir Brooke Bridges.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Macartney.	Mr. Clive.
Mr. Hamilton.	

Mr. Miles was called to the Chair.

The Committee deliberated on their course of proceedings.

[Adjourned till Monday next, at One o'clock.

Lunæ, 21° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Miles, in the Chair.

Mr. Miles.	Colonel French.
Mr. Herbert.	Mr. Clive.
Mr. Hamilton.	Mr. Macartney.
Mr. Gladstone.	Sir Brooke Bridges.
Mr. Wilson.	Mr. Fortescue.
Sir Robert Ferguson.	Mr. Grogan.

Mr. *George Macartney*, a Member of the House, and Mr. *Wilmot Seton*, examined.

Mr. *George Macartney*, further examined.

[Adjourned to Tuesday, the 6th July, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 6° *die Julii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Miles, in the Chair.

Sir R. Ferguson.	Mr. Gladstone.
Mr. Macartney.	Mr. H. Herbert.
Mr. Hamilton.	Mr. Fortescue.

Mr. *William Seton*, and Mr. *Felton Frederick William Harvey*, examined.

[Adjourned till Friday, at Twelve o'clock.

Veneris, 9° *die Julii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Miles, in the Chair.

Sir Brooke Bridges.	Mr. Gladstone.
Mr. Macartney.	Sir Robert Ferguson.
Mr. Wilson.	Mr. Fortescue.

Mr. *Robert Gregg*, and Mr. *Alexander Shackleton*, examined.

[Adjourned to Tuesday, at One o'clock.

Martis, 13° *die Julii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. MILES, in the Chair.

Colonel French.	Sir R. Ferguson.
Mr. Macartney.	Mr. Fortescue.
Sir Brooke Bridges.	Mr. Wilson.
Mr. Hamilton.	

Mr. *Charles Crafer*, examined.

The Committee deliberated.

Draft Report proposed by the Chairman, read 1°, as follows:

"Your Committee appointed to inquire into the cause for withholding certain grants sanctioned by Parliament in 1846, in aid of county rates in Ireland, for the following purposes:—Maintenance of convicts and convicted misdemeanants in county gaols; expenses of witnesses in criminal prosecutions at assizes and sessions; half medical relief and salaries of schoolmasters in poor law unions; similar grants having been made from April 1846 to 1858 in England and Wales; and further, to consider whether any equitable equivalent exists in respect of grants made or repayments remitted, as regards Ireland, in aid of local rates, which has not been made or remitted as regards England and Wales, have given their attention, and called witnesses before them upon the subject of the reference. They find by an extract from the speech of Sir Robert Peel, when proposing alterations in he commercial policy of England, and the abolition of the Corn Laws, recommended certain grants to be made annually by Parliament in aid of county rates in Great Britain and Ireland:

"1st. That the remaining half of the expense of maintaining prisoners in Great Britain and Ireland, who were under sentence for felony or misdemeanor, should be paid by the Treasury, and be provided for by an annual vote, estimating the sum of which this would relieve the counties at 64,000 *l.* a year.

"2d. In case of England and Ireland, that that portion of the charge of the expenses of prosecutions which was borne by local rates, should be borne altogetner by the public Treasury, estimated in England at 100,000 *l.*, in Ireland 17,000 *l.*

"3d. That the whole charge of the police force in Ireland should be defrayed by the public Treasury, a portion of which had been borne by the land; this recommendation has been fulfilled. No other promise appears to your Committee to have been held out to Ireland as regards the payment of half medical relief to Ireland, as it was then stated that Ireland was under a different law with respect to medical relief, nor do we find any mention whatever as regards a provision for Irish union schoolmasters and witnesses.

"As regards the first head; viz., the expense of maintaining prisoners in Great Britain and Ireland, your Committee find that in England the Government established some years ago a maximum of 4 *s.* a week, for the expense of food, fuel, clothing, and bedding; nothing is given beyond that maximum of 4 *s.*, but in all cases in which the cost comes to less, the actual outlay is only paid. The Treasury bears the expense from the day of conviction to the day of discharge; and all classes of prisoners are included in this charge who have been convicted of felonies and the class of misdemeanors specifically stated in the Act of 7 Geo. 4, which is the last Act which regulates those expenses.

"In Ireland, the Government pays for the maintenance of military prisoners, and for those who are prosecuted for breach of the Revenue Laws, who are a very small number, and for the prisoners sentenced to penal servitude and transportation, at the rate of 4½ *d.* a day for males, and 3½ *d.* a day for females. This scale has been in operation since the 1st of January 1853. Previously to the 1st of January 1855 payment for each convict did not commence until 30 days after conviction had expired; since that date payment takes effect immediately after conviction. The amount estimated annually for the maintenance of prisoners, excluding those above-mentioned as paid for by the Treasury, will be, according to Mr. Hervey's calculation, 12,500 *l.* a year, and in future a payment of 5 *d.* a day would provide for such maintenance.

"Your Committee recommend that Government should fully carry out Sir Robert Peel's proposition as regards the payment of the maintenance of convicted prisoners; and that for the future every class of convicted prisoner or misdemeanant which is paid for by the Treasury in England, should be paid for likewise by the Treasury in Ireland, adopting in Ireland, as in England, a maximum, beyond which no payment should be made.

"As regards the second item, viz., the costs of prosecutions, the whole of the costs in the United Kingdom are borne by the Government.

"There appears to have been no difficulty in originally forming an estimate of this charge, as Lord J. Russell, when Home Secretary in 1836, the year in which half of the costs was first borne by Government, called for certain returns from counties and boroughs, by which he was enabled to estimate, tolerably correctly, the moiety for which the Treasury was to ask for in the Estimates; upon this basis, Sir R. Peel formed his estimate of the remaining moiety paid by the Treasury after the year 1846.

"The

"The same basis of calculation, however, appears not to have existed in Ireland, as certain Crown prosecutions were paid in that country antecedent to 1846, which appears in the Estimates under the head of 'Prosecutions and other Law Charges in Ireland,' and there has been no change in that system since 1842. Sir R. Peel, however, calculated that the annual charge of prosecutions in Ireland, under the heads not included in the above charges, would amount to 17,000 *l.* a year; the framers of the Estimates, however, for that year, took 9,000 *l.* for the last half, and 18,000 *l.* a year for the years 1847–48, 1848–49, 1849–50. The Treasury communicates with the Paymaster of the Civil Services, Ireland, who states, as far as these sums go, that none of the 63,000 *l.* voted by Parliament for the expenses of prosecutions at assizes and quarter sessions have been paid for that service.

"Mr. Macartney thinks that from calculations he has made that Sir R. Peel's estimate of 17,000 *l.* for the cost of prosecutions, not included under the head of 'Prosecutions and other Law Charges,' is as near as possible the average amount that would be required.

"It may possibly be doubted whether Sir R. Peel did not contemplate, together with these measures of relief, to introduce improvements in the criminal law. But as the Committee are not aware that any improvements have been by law established in England affecting these two subjects, whilst the whole of the provisions held out in the declaration made in 1846 have been fulfilled, they recommend that subject to the regulations of the Treasury. All costs of prosecutions which are paid in England by the Treasury, should likewise be paid in Ireland."

Draft Report read 2°, and considered, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs from 1 to 10 inclusive, read, amended, and agreed to.

Paragraph 11 read. Question, "That this paragraph stand part of the Report," put, and negatived.

Paragraph 12 read, amended, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the following paragraph be added to the Draft Report:"—"Although your Committee are of opinion that no promise was held out by Sir R. Peel that the half of the medical relief in Irish unions would be granted, owing to Ireland being then under a separate law, as regards medical relief, from England and Scotland, yet, inasmuch as since January 1852 the system of medical relief has been altered, and the charge placed on the poor-rate, the laws in Ireland being thereby assimilated to those in force in England and Scotland; your Committee recommend to Her Majesty's Government to take into consideration the claims of Ireland to a grant of the half cost of medical officers in unions, with the view of providing for the same in future, as is now the practice in England and Scotland" (Mr. *Macartney*). Question put, "That this paragraph be added to the proposed Report." The Committee divided:

Ayes, 4.	Noes, 3.
Mr. Macartney.	Sir Brooke Bridges.
Sir R. Ferguson.	Mr. Hamilton.
Colonel French.	Mr. Wilson.
Mr. Fortescue.	

Question, "That this Report, as agreed to, be the Report of the Committee to the House," put, and agreed to.

Ordered, To Report, together with the Minutes of Evidence.

EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

NAME of WITNESS.	PROFESSION or CONDITION.	From whence Summoned.	Number of Days Absent from Home under Orders of Committee.	Expenses of Journey to London and back.	Allowance during Absence from Home.	TOTAL Expenses Allowed to Witness.
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Alexander Shackleton	Secretary of the Grand Jury of the County of Louth.	Dundalk -	4 days -	5 10 –	4 4 –	9 14 –
Robert Gregg - -	Assistant Accountant, Paymaster of Civil Services Office, Ireland.	Dublin -	3 „ -	5 – –	3 3 –	8 3 –
Frederick F. W. Hervey	Inspector of Prisons -	- ditto -	3 „ -	5 – –	3 3 –	8 3 –
						26 – –

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Charles Long Crafer, Esq. - - - - - - - - p. 33

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Lunæ, 21° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Sir Brooke Bridges.	Mr. Gladstone.
Mr. George Clive.	Mr. Hamilton.
Sir Robert Ferguson.	Mr. Henry Herbert.
Colonel French.	Mr. Macartney.
Mr. Fortescue.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Grogan.	Mr. Wilson.

WILLIAM MILES, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

George Macartney, Esq., a Member of the Committee; Examined.

G. Macartney, Esq., M.P.

21 June 1858.

1. *Chairman.*] YOU are a Member for the county of Antrim?—I am.

2. How long have you been Member for that county?—Since 1852.

3. Have you turned your attention a good deal to the charge and expenditure of county rates in Ireland?—Very much; I have taken an active part in three counties on the grand juries for a series of years.

4. You were not in Parliament in the year 1846?—No.

5. Has your attention been called to the statement then made by Sir Robert Peel relative to a certain remission of county rates both in England and in Ireland?—My attention was not called to it in 1846; not till I entered Parliament; immediately after I entered Parliament my attention was called to it by my friend Colonel Dunne.

6. You have been kind enough to put before the Committee a short extract from a speech made by Sir Robert Peel on that occasion; will you be good enough to take it in your hand, and to give your attention first of all to this paragraph: "You have already taken off one half the expense of maintaining prisoners in Great Britain and Ireland, who are under sentence for felony or misdemeanor; and I propose to relieve the counties of this charge altogether, and take from the Consolidated Fund the expense of the maintenance of such prisoners." He goes on to say that the sum of which this would relieve the counties is 64,000 *l.* per annum; now in that case has that promise been carried out with respect to Ireland?—No; Sir Robert Peel was under an error as to the proportion remitted to the counties in Ireland through the Treasury; it was a scale that we could never ascertain, and we objected to it, as totally inadequate to repay the counties in Ireland to the same extent to which the counties in England were repaid. In England the allowance is about 4 *s.* per week per head from the day when the conviction takes place; in Ireland there is a scale varying from 4 *d.* per diem for each convict (not for convicted misdemeanants at all), and the allowance does not begin till 30 days after conviction; 4 *d.* per diem would be 2 *s.* 8 *d.* per week. I myself over and over again complained at the Castle, in Dublin, of the injustice of that arrangement.

7. Then some portion of the charge was repaid, but you think not sufficient?—Not sufficient.

G. Macartney, Esq., M.P.

21 June 1858.

8. Have you any means of showing the actual charge to the Treasury in 1846 for misdemeanants and felons after conviction?—Colonel Dunne moved for a Return in 1850, number 450; and this Return was of the number of convicts sentenced to death or transportation, and of the number of persons imprisoned for misdemeanors throughout the United Kingdom during the years 1847, 1848, and 1849; also, a Return of all sums paid by the Treasury for the providing of food, fuel, clothing, and bedding for the convicts and misdemeanants during that period; there being only a proportion of the expense of convicts and misdemeanants in English gaols paid for; not any portion of the establishment.

9. Does that return relate likewise to Ireland?—It includes the United Kingdom; Colonel Dunne's motion was for convicts and misdemeanants in the United Kingdom.

10. Is that the first return relative to the expenses of convicts and misdemeanants in Ireland, from which the Government could know what the cost of their maintenance was?—I should say so; the object of that return, I have no doubt, had reference to that speech of Sir Robert Peel, because the return commences in 1847.

11. Are you able, having that return in your hand, to state what is the cost per week of convicts and misdemeanants in Ireland?—I cannot gather it so well from that return as from a subsequent return which I moved for myself.

12. Of what date?—The first was moved for in April 1853. It is an "Abstract of returns of convicts sentenced to transportation, and of all other prisoners convicted by a jury, confined in the several county gaols in Ireland on 1st November 1852, showing the entire cost of maintenance for the five years from 1847 to 1851, and of sums repaid to counties from the Consolidated Fund during the same period." That return only applies to Ireland.

13. And only applies to the counties in Ireland?—The whole thing is done by the counties; the borough gaols are brought within the range of that return.

14. Then, looking to that return, can you state to the Committee what was the cost from the year 1847 down to the period of that return of the maintenance of the convicts and misdemeanants?—I had two abstracts made for me by the inspectors-general of prisons, to enable me to arrive at the amount per head per annum of both classes for 15 years.

15. Will you be kind enough to state what the amounts appear to have been?—The first return which I have is for the five years ending the 31st of December 1851, showing the cost of food, fuel, clothing, bedding, and other necessaries for all misdemeanants convicted by a jury. The annual amount per head for the misdemeanants by that return, in all the gaols in Ireland, during those five years, was at the annual average of 5*l.* 19*s.* 0¾*d.* Then the return from the same office of the expense of convicts per head, for those same articles, was 5*l.* 16*s.* 10¼*d.* These documents were supplied to me by the Inspector-general of Prisons very soon after there had been some committee with respect to the convict prisons in Ireland. At the same time I got from the officer, what is also contained in my return, the total cost for establishment charges, as well as the proportion which the counties were paid by the Consolidated Fund, and that amounts for misdemeanants to an annual charge of 11*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* per head, and for convicts 10*l.* 16*s.* That shows the whole expense that they cost the county per head upon the average. And the other return shows what the counties have a fair claim to establish against the Treasury.

16. If in the counties of England the cost of superintendence is not paid by the Treasury, but only the cost of maintenance, should you claim for the counties in Ireland a privilege which the counties in England do not enjoy?—I never intended to do so, but I thought it was necessary and advantageous to show what both charges were.

17. Have you any statement, showing how much the contribution by the Treasury falls short of those two amounts which you have given us, namely, 5*l.* 19*s.* 0¾*d.* per head, and 5*l.* 16*s.* 10¼*d.* per head?—I have prepared a table, called Table (B.), showing first the expense of the maintenance of convicts and convicted misdemeanants, confined in county gaols in Ireland for 12½ years, ending in April 1858, including the cost of maintenance, food, fuel, and bedding; and the amount which the county rates in Ireland ought to have been recouped for those charges, during that period, was 353,143*l.*

18. Mr.

18. Mr. *G. Clive.*] Is that the half?—It is less than half. That is according to the statement made to me at different times, of what was the actual cost of food, fuel, clothing, and bedding. It varies considerably. In one year it is 44,000 *l.*, another year it is 20,000 *l*, another year it is 26,000 *l.*, making a sum total which we ought to have received from April 1846, in accordance with the grants made in England, of 353,143 *l.* Then the second column in this Table is the amount which we actually received, and which was I think at the rate of about 4 *d.* per day per head, for the convicts only. The votes and estimates under this head for Ireland, from 1846 to 1858 inclusive, amount to only 47,047 *l.* 6 *s.* 9 *d.*, consequently leaving about 300,000 *l.* unpaid to Ireland.

19. But you are aware that in England a certain charge only is paid for maintenance?—Four shillings per week; that will give 5 *l.* 8 *s.* per head.

20. The allowance in England is 4 *s.* per head, and the allowance in Ireland has been 2 *s.* 4 *d.* per head; taking the comparative cost of living in the two countries, does not 2 *s.* 4 *d.* per head in Ireland represent pretty much what 4 *s.* does in England?—I do not agree with that way of putting it. What you want is the actual cost to the counties, as shown by the published documents. We are not to take theory when there is actual means of arriving at the fact. It appears that in the counties in Ireland the expenditure on convicts and misdemeanants during the 12 years subsequent to Sir Robert Peel's speech, amounted to 353,000 *l.* for food, fuel, clothing, and bedding. I do not think that any theory ought to upset that claim.

21. Colonel *French.*] Does not 2 *s.* 4 *d.* per head per week represent the entire amount that is expended by the counties for the maintenance of prisoners?—I have heard that 4 *d.* a day is the rate, but I have no evidence to prove it. To show the difference in different years, in 1847, which was one of our famine years, when the county gaols were overflowing, the amount that we had a claim to, according to the principle laid down by Sir Robert Peel, for the actual cost of food, fuel, clothing, and bedding, was 44,088 *l.*, and the whole amount returned to the counties for that year was 4,054 *l.* 4 *s.* 8 *d.*; that is a fact upon record.

22. Mr. *Gladstone.*] Has the sum repaid to the counties been repaid under the idea of its amounting to one moiety of the expense of maintenance?—No, it never has been.

23. Under what legal title has that sum been paid back to the counties?—In making up the estimates for the expenditure for county gaols and transportation, and different other charges in that portion of the estimates, that is the sum that in the year 1847 was placed against the actual expenditure to be repaid to the counties; 4,054 *l.* 4 *s.* 8 *d.*

24. Are the Committee to understand that you have now a double end in view, namely, that you wish first to show that a promise was given by Sir Robert Peel to take the second moiety of maintenance upon the State, and that that promise has not been fulfilled; and that your other point is to show that one moiety has really not been borne by the State, as Sir Robert Peel said it was borne?—My intention is to show that we never did get the moiety, although Sir Robert Peel admitted that we were entitled to it. I think that everybody will admit that Ireland should not be in a worse condition than England.

25. Mr. *G. Clive.*] You stated 353,143 *l.* to be the whole amount of expenditure under those heads during those years; how do you get the sum of 353,143 *l.*?—From public documents.

26. What does that sum of 353,143 *l.* represent?—It represents that portion of the expenditure of gaols that was laid out upon food, fuel, clothing, and bedding for convicts and convicted misdemeanants.

27. And which the counties ought to have received according to your idea?—Yes; the counties ought to have received the whole of that since 1846.

28. You state that they actually received only one-seventh of it?—£. 47,047.

29. Mr. *French.*] You stated that the sum you mentioned was the entire sum received for maintenance of prisoners, but the statement ought to be of prisoners under sentence for felony and not misdemeanor?—Yes; I understand the whole examination to relate to that. To follow up that return, I have stated that in the year of the famine, the expenditure was 44,088 *l*, and that the amount repaid was only 4,054 *l.*. Then I will take 1852, which we consider the first great year of our improving in our circumstances, and coming round to what was a

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better condition of agriculture. In 1852, the amount of expenditure was 20,500 *l.* The sum granted in the estimates for that year, was 2,433 *l*, that was a scale of grant very far inferior to what we had a right to claim under Sir Robert Peel's speech.

30. *Chairman.*] Was there in any year an allowance paid to you of 4 *d.* a day?—I ought to state that I say 4 *d.* a day from my recollection of the evidence of officers examined here. I have not tested the actual sums to see whether they brought out 4 *d.* a day.

31. Will you tell us what, according to your estimate, supposing that Ireland ought to have been paid for the maintenance of convicts and misdemeanants as England was, is the total loss which, up to the present time, Ireland has sustained by non-payment since 1846?—Upwards of 300,000 *l.*

32. If England has only received 4 *s.* per head per week, and if Ireland has received 2 *s.* 4 *d.* per head per week for the maintenance of those convicts and misdemeanants, and if the 4 *s.* a day does not pay for the convicts in England, do you think it a hardship that 2 *s.* 4 *d.* a week only should have been paid for the maintenance of your Irish convicts and misdemeanants?—I have no way of answering that question; it appears to me to be involved in difficulty; but I have prepared a table of the charges claimed in aid of county rates in England for the maintenance of convicts and convicted misdemeanants, during the same 12½ years, from 1846 to 1858, and taking the relative amount of the population, 17,000,000, as compared with 6,500,000 in Ireland, I find the relative charges are about the same. The table which I hold in my hand shows that for the same period for which I have stated 353,000 *l.* ought to have been the grant made to Ireland, the grants made to England were 1,300,000 *l.*, the charge being the same as the grant in the Estimates; therefore, I do not think we are claiming for Ireland more than our exact right. What we claim is the amount of cost which our officers in the gaols under the Inspectors-general of Prisons, state to be the portion which, under the speech of Sir Robert Peel, we ought to have had repaid. A gentleman from the Treasury has stated to me that when the accounts sent from the gaolers, or from the county treasurers in England, exceed the rate of 4 *s.* a head per week, the charge is reduced to that amount; but that in many of the accounts, particularly from distant counties, where provisions are moderate in price, it very often does not come up to that rate; and I believe that if the amount which I claim for Ireland was divided into the rate per head, it would not amount to 4 *s.* per head per week. I was not aware until Saturday that that was the scale per head in England, or I should have tried further with the figures.

33. Could you tell the Committee what would be the actual cost per head per week in any goal that you have had to do with?—I can put in, at the next meeting of the Committee, another report made under a suggestion of mine to the Board of Superintendence of the county of Antrim, for several years in succession up to 1857; I can put in a printed return, which will give the whole expense.

34. Mr. *Fortescue.*] How do you arrive at the sum voted for Ireland, under the head of "Maintenance of Prisoners under Sentence." I see that in the estimates the sum voted is a lumped sum for England and Ireland together?—If you look at the Estimates for "Law and Justice," at the end you will find separate charges for "Convicts and misdemeanants in county goals, criminal lunatics in lunatic asylums, and convicts and misdemeanants in Ireland." I beg to call the attention of the Committee to this fact, that no allowance has ever yet been made to Ireland for criminal lunatics confined in county goals, although there are grants made for criminal lunatics in county goals in England, upon the same principle as for convicts and convicted misdemeanants.

35. *Chairman.*] Will you next state what steps you have taken to draw the attention of the Government to the sums of money that were due to Ireland for the non-payment of this head of county expenditure?—In 1853, when the Right honourable Member for Oxford was Chancellor of the Exchequer, I called his attention to the fact. In page 441 of Hansard, volume 127, 1853, there is this report of what passed on the motion for going into Committee of Supply, the subject being then the expenses of criminal prosecutions in Ireland: "Mr. Macartney said he would take that occasion to point out the injustice of paying the expense of prosecutions at assizes and quarter sessions in England out of the national

national funds, and allowing the same item to fall as a burden upon the county rates in Ireland. In 1846, when the corn laws were repealed, the late Sir Robert Peel promised that the expense of such prosecutions should be paid out of the Consolidated Fund, both in England and Ireland. So far as England was concerned, the spirit of that promise had been carried out; but the expense of prosecutions at assizes and quarter sessions was still left as a local burden in Ireland, and he desired to know therefore whether it was the intention of the Government to propose a supplementary vote for the relief of Ireland." The reply of the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gladstone) was this: "The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, he was not aware of any promise having been given by Sir Robert Peel, such as that referred to by the honourable gentleman; but viewing the question raised in the light of policy or expediency, he thought it was one which the honourable gentleman was fairly entitled to urge upon the attention of the Government, and it was clearly the duty of the Government to give it a full and fair consideration. His colleagues and himself would do so, but in the meantime, they were not prepared to propose a supplementary vote." Mr. Macartney said, he would refer the Right honourable Gentleman to the Debates in Hansard on this subject. Colonel Dunne said, "He had no faith whatever in promises of the kind alluded to by the honourable Member for Antrim (Mr. Macartney); but he based the present question upon the ground of policy, and believed that if a committee were to be appointed to investigate this subject, Ireland would easily prove its claim to be exempted from the payment of these charges." Sir John Young, then being Secretary for Ireland, followed that up by this; he said "The whole subject of local burdens in Ireland was well worth consideration, and the Government would give its attention to the point mooted by the honourable Member for Antrim. He was prepared to go into a full inquiry, as to the way in which the local burdens in Ireland were assessed; but that was a totally different question from proposing to place a portion of them upon the Consolidated Fund." That was in 1853. In 1854, I think, I was in Ireland at the time when these estimates came before the House; but in 1855, having a new Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Gladstone not having taken up the matter, I renewed the subject. The debate at the time was upon the maintenance of prisoners. The same subject was then under discussion. On the 7th of May 1855, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, being then Sir George Cornewall Lewis, Mr. Macartney said, "He wished to called the attention of the Committee to the injustice that was done to Ireland in throwing the expenses of criminals, and witnesses in criminal prosecutions, upon the counties. The late Sir Robert Peel, when he proposed the repeal of the corn laws, admitted that Ireland was entitled to relief in that respect, while the late Chancellor of the Exchequer gave a pledge that the matter should be looked into. Now, here was Ireland going to have an increased income tax, besides an increased tax upon spirits thrown upon her, and yet no relief was proposed in the shape of a transfer of some of these charges to the Consolidated Fund. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, that when the arrangement to which the honourable gentleman referred was made by Sir Robert Peel, one half the expenses of prosecutions at assizes and sessions, and certain charges connected with the poor laws in England, and the entire cost of the constabulary in Ireland were transferred to the Consolidated Fund; this adjustment was not made upon the principle of taking the same local charges in England and Ireland, but of taking different charges in the two countries. If the Committee referred to the votes they would find in them a charge of 638,511*l.* for the constabulary in Ireland; but there was no corresponding charge for the police of England. He doubted whether his predecessor in office had given any pledge on this subject, beyond engaging to take the matter into his consideration; but he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) certainly could not hold out any hope that the Government would propose any alteration in the adjustment of local burdens proposed by Sir Robert Peel. Mr. Macartney said, he must maintain that Sir Robert Peel distinctly laid it down that inasmuch as Ireland was essentially a corn-growing country, she was entitled to be relieved of many of her county charges when the corn laws were repealed." That was what occurred in 1855. In consequence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer doubting my statement, I addressed a letter to him; the answer which he gave was suggested to him by the Secretary to the Treasury at the time, who was sitting beside him; that is all that I have to say upon the

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subject of calling the attention of the Government to the subject. Then in 1858, when I thought there was a Government a little of my own way of thinking, that would not deny me in my endeavours to get full justice done to Ireland, I succeeded in getting this Committee; but they have put a rider upon my proposition, which I think has enabled this Committee to take a very wide view of Irish taxation grants. Those are the principal things that I have to state with respect to the maintenance of prisoners.

36. Mr. *G. Clive.*] How do you account for the enormous difference between the two sums you have mentioned of 353,000*l.* and 47,000*l.*?—It is because they have never considered our claim to the extent that the law allows us.

37. Supposing you were to receive at the rate of 2*s.* a week per head, would that amount to 47,000*l.*?—I do not know; I have not tried that.

38. Do you know how the amount of 353,000*l.* is made up?—Yes; I know that these returns from which I have been reading are made from the county books; they come through the Inspectors-general of Prisons, who state that the amount of the cost of those items of food, clothing, and bedding is 353,000*l.*

39. Divided by how many years?—By 12 years and a half.

40. That would give you at the rate of about 28,000*l.* a year?—Yes.

41. Can you state what number of prisoners were maintained during those 12 years and a half?—I have no doubt there is a return somewhere in Parliament that would show the number of persons; there is a Parliamentary return showing the amount of cost of prisoners for those items. I have a document which was given to myself for my own private information at the time the Committee was sitting in London upon convict prisoners.

42. *Chairman.*] I will now draw your attention to the second head. In the late Sir Robert Peel's speech, what he says respecting this head is as follows: "Now in respect to the expense of prosecutions in England, one half of that charge is already paid by the Public Treasury. In Scotland the charge is borne altogether by the Treasury; whilst in Ireland there still remains a portion of the charge which is borne by the land. We propose in the case of England, and in the case of Ireland, that that portion of the charge of the expense of prosecutions which is now borne by local rates, shall be borne altogether by the Public Treasury." Is that the fact now as regards Ireland?—It is not the fact that we are paid that portion to which Sir Robert Peel referred. There is an item of 30,000*l.* this year in the Estimates for Prosecutions and Crown Witnesses, in Vote No. 3, under the head of "Law Charges for Ireland." That refers entirely to those prosecutions which are managed by the Crown officers, consisting of felonies and felonious assaults. But all the other charges for common assaults, petty larcenies, and other crimes, are at the expense of the counties; for instance, a man is assaulted, say a labourer, and he is bound over to attend at the court of sessions and prosecute. He goes there and he does prosecute. He applies to the magistrates on the bench, and they certify that he is entitled to 1*s.* for his day, and 6*d.* for his dinner, and if he has come 15 miles, he gets a small allowance for car hire. That expense entirely falls upon the county. Now I take it, on looking over the whole of the grants that Sir Robert Peel had in view, that his object was that that expenditure should be repaid to the counties in Ireland. Because when you come to look at the small proportion that the expenses of witnesses at assizes and sessions bear to what are called the expenses of prosecutions at assizes and sessions, you will find that they do not come to more than 10,500*l.* out of the 30,000*l.* All the rest is swallowed up by fees to counsel and the charges of Crown prosecutors; officers that you have not in England.

43. *Colonel French.*] What amount is voted annually for the expenses of prosecutions in Ireland?—There is the sum of 30,000*l.* in the votes of this year, under the head of "Prosecutions and Crown witnesses in Ireland;" that vote of 30,000*l.* is formed in this way: Sessional Crown prosecutors, 3,776*l.*; counsel's fees, 19,374*l.*; witnesses' maintenance (that is for Crown witnesses when they cannot be let loose in the country for fear of being destroyed), 10,556*l.*; that is for what is called the Government Crown Office in Dublin.

44. But the whole amount which, according to your estimate, the counties would be relieved from if Sir Robert Peel's promise were fulfilled would be 17,000*l.*?—Yes; I can satisfy the Committee of the data upon which I took that. The form of return of the county treasurers consists of twelve items, and the sixth is headed thus, "Police and Police Establishments and Payments to Witnesses."

Witnesses." That used to be originally very nearly 20,000 *l.*; before 1846, the charge to the counties for the moiety of the expense of the police used to be very large, but when the law was altered the Treasury took the whole of that, and there is no charge now on the counties in Ireland for police except occasionally, when in a disturbed district the magistrates apply for extra police, and that becomes a charge upon the county rates. On looking over the accounts for my own county, the county of Louth, I see that that column varies from 5,000 *l.* to 12,000 *l.*; then the only other item chargeable under the column would be those expenses the repayment of which I now seek to claim for Ireland; the return of those for the year 1857 was 28,465 *l.*; I take it that it was upon a return of that description that Sir Robert Peel fixed upon 28,000 *l.*

45. Whatever the charge for police establishments may be, that ought to be deducted from the 28,000 *l.*?—Yes; I think if that is deducted, Sir Robert Peel was as near the average amount of the expenses of witnesses at prosecutions by fixing on 17,000 *l.* as possible.

46. The expenses of witnesses and the cost of prosecutions are paid in the same relative proportions in England and in Ireland; but only a certain description of prosecutions is allowed to be charged to the Consolidated Fund in England, and the same are allowed to be charged in Ireland; do you think that equal justice is dealt both to England and to Ireland in that respect?—I admit that the principle is sound, but I have yet to see from any public document that England does not get from the Consolidated Fund, in consequence of the Report of the Committee of 1834, a larger proportion of the expenses of prosecutions repaid to the counties beyond what we have for the same items in Ireland.

47. Colonel *French*.] Are not the orders for the expenses of witnesses made either by the assistant barrister or the judge?—The practice in the county of Antrim and the county of Louth is this, that at the assizes when the trial is over the witness applies, through his solicitor, or if he has not employed a solicitor, by himself, to the judge for his expenses, and the judge directs him to communicate with the Clerk of the Crown, who examines what is the position of the man, as to his business, and what distance he has come, and at the quarter sessions the magistrates on the bench generally depute one or two of their body to receive applications during the sessions and make the orders, and provision is made by the treasurer with the bank, or with the deputy clerk of the peace, that he shall advance the money and get a check when the sessions are over; now, for all those expenses that are disposed of in that way we have never got any repayment or compensation from the public fund; and we consider it was for that portion of the expenses of prosecutions in Ireland affecting the land that Sir Robert Peel intended to give us that amount of 17,000 *l.* a year. The Treasury themselves seem to have acknowledged it, because from 1846, although they did not put an increased vote for the maintenance of prisoners into their estimates, they put 9,000 *l.* for the six months ending 1846, unexpired, for the expenses of prosecutions in Ireland, and they put 18,000 *l.* a year for the three years following; but they took care to keep it and never to pay it to us, and we have never received one shilling of 63,000 *l.* from the Treasury.

48. *Chairman*.] Then, if I rightly understand you, for the latter half-year of 1846, 9,000 *l.* was voted, and in the three consecutive subsequent years 18,000 *l.* was voted for the expenses of prosecutions in Ireland, and that sum has not been received by the counties in Ireland?—Yes.

49. Mr. *G. Clive*.] Those prosecutions being for felonies?—No, those prosecutions, I conceive, being prosecutions at the assizes and sessions.

50. Colonel *French*.] When those orders are paid by the county treasurer the money is levied upon the county at large under grand jury presentments?—Yes.

51. Is it the fact that similar charges to those which are paid in Ireland by grand jury presentments are paid in England out of the Consolidated Fund?—It is my opinion that the additional grant made by Sir Robert Peel in England covers a large portion of those payments.

52. Was there formerly any demand made upon the grand juries by the Crown for the repayment of the amount expended in prosecutions by the Crown?—I cannot recollect now.

53. *Chairman*.] Have you any other statements to make relative to this part of the inquiry?—I wish to hand in Table (B.), which contains the amount that

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I conceive we were entitled to under these heads, for the period from 1846 to 1858, and it sets out also the amount that has been granted in each year; thus showing the whole amount of which Ireland has been deprived, and the amount for which she ought to have credit in the Votes.

[*The Paper was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

TABLE (B).—IRELAND.

SHOWING the several Charges claimed in Aid of County Rates, from April 1846 to 1858 inclusive, with the Amount charged annually on the Consolidated Fund for the same.

No. 1.—Maintenance of Convicts and Convicted Misdemeanants confined in County Gaols.

		CHARGE.	GRANT.
		£.	£. s. d.
April 1846	6 months -	22,570	2,620 8 8
„ 1847	12 months -	44,088	4,054 4 8
„ 1848	„ -	36,925	9,792 3 1
„ 1849	„ -	40,511	7,782 15 5
„ 1850	„ -	28,744	1,330 17 11
„ 1851	„ -	22,762	2,752 4 11
„ 1852	„ -	20,500	2,433 6 11
„ 1853	„ -	18,600	2,388 16 3
„ 1854	„ -	17,750	2,182 14 11
„ 1855	„ -	18,200	1,569 14 –
„ 1856	„ -	30,893	7,000 – –
„ 1857	„ -	25,000	2,000 – –
„ 1858	„ -	26,600	1,200 – –
	£.	353,143	47,047 6 9

No. 2.—Criminal Prosecutions at Assizes and Sessions, an Annual Charge of 18,000 *l.*

		CHARGE.	GRANT.
		£.	£.
April 1846	6 months -	9,000	9,000
„ 1847	12 months -	18,000	18,000
„ 1848	„ -	18,000	18,000
„ 1849	„ -	18,000	18,000
„ 1850 to „ 1858	9 years -	160,000	Nil.
	£.	225,000	63,000*

No. 3.—Half Medical Relief: Unions.

		CHARGE.	GRANT.
		£.	
April 1852	12 months -	9,736	Nil.
„ 1853	„ -	32,511	„
„ 1854	„ -	30,194	„
„ 1855	„ -	30,722	„
„ 1856	„ -	30,667	„
„ 1857	„ -	30,100	„
„ 1858	„ -	30,100	„
	£.	194,030	„

No. 4.—Schoolmasters and Schoolmistresses of Unions Salaries; 163 Unions; average Salary 10 *l.*

		CHARGE.	GRANT.
		£.	
April 1847	12 months -	1,990	Nil.
„ 1848	„ -	1,990	„
„ 1849	„ -	1,990	„
„ 1850	„ -	1,990	„
„ 1851	„ -	1,990	„
„ 1852	„ -	1,990	„
„ 1853	„ -	1,990	„
„ 1854	„ -	1,990	„
„ 1855	„ -	1,990	„
„ 1856	„ -	1,990	„
„ 1857	„ -	1,990	„
„ 1858	„ -	1,990	„
	£.	23,880	„

* This sum of 63,000 *l.* remains in the Exchequer Fund.

RECAPITULATION.

	CHARGE.	GRANTS.
	£.	£. s. d.
No. 1. Maintenance convicts and misdemeanants -	353,143	47,047 6 9
No. 2. Criminal prosecutions - - - - -	225,000	63,000 – –
No. 3. Half medical relief - - - - -	194,030	—
No. 4. Schoolmasters and schoolmistresses - -	23,880	—
£.	796,053	110,047 6 9

54. Will you tell us what Ireland has received from the period of 1846 down to the present day, under the head of "Criminal Prosecutions"?—Ireland has received nothing, I conceive, under the description of prosecutions I claim for.

55. How much has Ireland received for any prosecutions whatever, at assizes or sessions?—£.30,000, the particulars of which I have read, of which 19,000 *l.* is for counsel's fees, and only 10,500 *l.* for witnesses' expenses.

56. Colonel *French.*] Can you state why these annual votes of 18,000 *l.*, amounting in all to 63,000 *l.*, were never paid to Ireland?—I can form no opinion, further than that I asked the question once of a gentleman connected with the Treasury, and the answer was, "Oh, there was no Irishman to look after it."

57. *Chairman.*] Do I rightly understand you to state that during the interval from 1846 to 1858 only 30,000 *l.* has been paid for criminal prosecutions in Ireland?—No; what I state is, that I find in the estimates for many years 30,000 *l.* under this head. Though it is 30,000 *l.* this year, in previous years it was more than 30,000 *l.* It varies according to the state of crime.

58. Can you give us an account of what you have received for the cost of criminal prosecutions in Ireland since 1846?—It is part of the expense returned from the Crown-office in Dublin, but it is not set out as a separate vote at all, as the item in England is set out. But I thought I should be deceiving the Committee if I did not draw their attention to the vote of 30,000 *l.* There has always been a very great establishment of Crown solicitors in Ireland, and they have formed a part of the whole sum. The sum has varied from 45,000 *l.* to 25,000 *l.*

59. In addition to the 30,000 *l.* for last year, what do you think ought to have been paid to the counties in Ireland?—£. 18,000 *l.*

60. For what is that 18,000 *l.* due?—For portions of the expense of prosecutions at the assizes and sessions; what the county treasurer pays to the witnesses upon the order of the going judge of assize, or the assistant barrister at the sessions, out of county rates.

61. Mr. *Hamilton.*] There are two classes of expenses of prosecutions contained in the Estimates for 1856, namely, those coming under Vote No. 6, and those coming under Vote No. 7; can you state, with reference to Vote No. 6, whether the expenses of your county prosecutions were, or were not, defrayed out of the public funds long prior to 1846?—For, I believe, 20 years before.

62. Was there not a Treasury Minute, by which some of those charges were adjusted and altered?—In 1842.

63. Therefore the expenses of criminal prosecutions were paid in Ireland anterior to 1846?—Anterior to 1846, and in lieu of fees previously received by those public officers. Then, in 1847, I find the heading of Vote No. 7, is "An estimate of the sum required to be voted in the year 1846, to defray certain charges formerly paid out of the county rates;" and the first item is 120,000 *l.* "to defray one-half of the expenses of prosecutions at assizes and quarter sessions in England and Wales, being the proportion hitherto provided for in this estimate."

64. Previously to 1846, the vote had only been for one moiety of those expenses?—Yes.

65. Now will you turn to the next item?—That is, "To defray the remaining half of the expenses for the half-year ending 31st March 1847, 60,000 *l.*"

66. That being the second moiety, according to the promise made by Sir Robert Peel, in his speech in January 1847?—Yes.

67. What is the next item?—The next item is "9,000 *l.*, to defray similar expenses in Ireland, for the half-year to 31st March 1847."

68. Now, will you take the Finance Accounts for 1848, and will you state what they contain under these heads?—For the year ending March 1848, under Vote No. 6, there is "71,259 *l.* for the expenses of criminal prosecutions and other law charges in Ireland." There is "17,200 *l.* for the Crown solicitor's charges, for salaries and expenses." The "Expense of prosecutions, witnesses, &c.," is "48,000 *l.*," all forming part of the item of Crown prosecutions conducted by the Government. Then we come to Vote No. 7, "An estimate of the sum required in the year 1848, to defray certain charges formerly paid out the county rates, &c., for the year ending March 1848." Then there is, "To defray the expenses of prosecutions at assizes and quarter sessions in England and Wales, 240,000 *l.*," being double the amount of the year 1846; and "To defray similar expenses in Ireland, 18,000 *l.*" Now that we have never received;

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that is one of the items of the 63,000 *l.* that we have never received. Then the next year would show the same, and the year following would show the same.

69. *Chairman.*] Did those votes for 18,000 *l.* annually afterwards cease?—They ceased from April 1850.

70. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Are the prosecutions mentioned in Vote No. 6 prosecutions conducted by the Crown at assizes only?—No; they include the prosecutions at the sessions also; they are confined to one class of offences, which are criminal assaults chiefly.

71. You consider that the 18,000 *l.* a year contained in vote No. 7 should have been applied to the expenses of witnesses in prosecutions not conducted by the Crown?—Yes; those sums paid by the county treasurer upon the order of the judge of assize and the chairman and the magistrates at quarter sessions.

72. Mr. *Hamilton.*] As is the case in England?—I cannot tell what is the rule in England.

73. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Can you give us any idea what those expenses of witnesses, so allowed by the judges and assistant barristers, would come to?—I should say from 20,000 *l.* to 15,000 *l.* a year, according to the amount of crime.

74. *Chairman.*] Have there been any representations from any of the grand juries in Ireland of injustice being done to Ireland by the non-payment of this sum of money that was voted of 18,000 *l.* a year?—Not, I think, upon the ground of the special arrangement of Sir Robert Peel; but from time to time strong memorials and representations have been made that certain charges for those prosecutions, which ought not to affect the land, have been left upon the land in Ireland, and they have called for a revision of those charges.

75. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Have the grand juries in Ireland applied for that sum of 18,000 *l.* for those three years?—I have never heard of it; I sit upon three grand juries, and I know their conclusion would be, that it would be of no use any grand jury applying, when I, at head-quarters in Parliament, could not induce the Treasury to listen to me.

Wilmot Seton, Esq., called in; and Examined.

W. Seton, Esq.

76. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are connected with the Treasury?—I am.

77. Have you had those charges which heretofore were borne by county rates, and are now borne by the Exchequer, under your cognisance?—In England I have; in Ireland the whole is distributed through the Irish Government; in England the distribution of the whole comes under my own cognisance.

78. Will you be good enough to state upon whose demand that part which comes out of the Exchequer is paid to Ireland?—It is upon a demand from the Irish Government; the Irish Government apply to the Treasury for the issue of a certain vote of Parliament, and they themselves regulate the details of that vote.

79. May I call your attention to the first part of the speech of Sir Robert Peel in 1846, in which he states it to be the intention of the Government to remit certain charges, namely, for maintaining prisoners in Great Britain and Ireland: will you state whether that is done in both countries, and upon what basis it is done?—In both countries we repay to the counties and boroughs the expense of the food, fuel, clothing, and bedding; in England we repay the claim, if it does not exceed a certain amount; whenever it exceeds 4 *s.* a week for each prisoner the sum is reduced to 4 *s.*; nothing is given beyond that maximum of 4 *s.*, but in all cases in which they come to less we repay the actual cost; in some cases it is not above half-a-crown or 2*s.* 8 *d.*

80. How long is it since you established that maximum?—I cannot answer that; that has been several years established.

81. Has it been since the payment of this item of expense has been taken by the Government?—I believe it was about that time.

82. Mr. *Henry Herbert.*] The 4*s.* was fixed as the maximum, because it was presumed that anything beyond that was an unreasonable claim?—Yes, we found that the claims began to increase after the charge was taken by Government, and it was necessary to fix a maximum; with respect to Ireland, I saw a paper this very day which called for inquiry, why in Ireland the rates varied so much. The rates vary from 3*d.* to 6*d.* per day, but I believe that no claim in Ireland exceeded 6*d.* a day.

83. *Chairman.*] I understand that you have a maximum of 4 *d.* a day in Ireland?—I am

—I am not aware of that; I heard Mr. Macartney say that that was the average charged, but I am not aware that that is the maximum.

84. Upon what grounds do you call for the estimate in Ireland; how is the estimate formed?—I cannot answer that question; the Irish Government send in the estimate for that.

85. Has it been a progressive charge from the year 1846 down to the present time for the maintenance of prisoners in Ireland or not?—I am not aware that it has.

86. Could you give the Committee the sums charged each year?—I have not that before me; the financial accounts will give that, but I am not prepared to answer that question.

87. Colonel *French*.] Is not there a difference between England and Ireland as to the principle upon which the arrangements are made; are you aware that in England the payment is made by the Treasury from the day of conviction, whereas in Ireland the payment does not commence till 30 days after conviction?—I am not aware of that; we do not go into that; there is a request from the Irish Government for certain issues from the vote for Ireland, and we take care that the amount is not exceeded; but the details of the payment are managed by the Irish Government.

88. Mr. *Grogan*.] Does the Treasury bear the expense from the day of conviction?—From the day of conviction to the day of discharge; at least, from the day on which the prisoner is actually given over to the gaol at which his sentence is to be served; that is not always the day of conviction.

89. What class of prisoners are included under that charge?—All classes of prisoners to whom the Vote of Parliament applies; that is, felonies, and a certain class of misdemeanors.

90. Colonel *French*.] Is there any class of convicted prisoners that you would not recognise as entitled to be applied for?—The persons that we pay for are persons convicted of felonies and the class of misdemeanors specifically stated in the Act of the 7th of George the 4th, which is the last Act which regulates those expenses. We employ professional persons to examine the details of those expenses.

91. Mr. *Gladstone*.] You have stated the maximum payments in England; can you state the average payments in England?—I could not state the average.

92. Mr. *Hamilton*.] Has it not been found necessary to subject those expenses in England to very strict supervision?—It has.

93. Formerly they were found to have exceeded considerably the amount which is considered reasonable now?—Yes.

94. Colonel *French*.] Are you aware that the sum of 63,000*l*., voted in different years for Ireland, was not expended?—It seems to me that there was no machinery by which that could be applied for. The sums voted for Ireland were always issued to the Crown solicitor. A vote was taken for each Crown solicitor. In 1842, the costs were found to be exceedingly heavy, and the bills of costs were commuted, and a certain allowance voted for each Crown solicitor. Application is made by the Irish Government for an issue to the Crown solicitor in respect of that vote; but the details of it we do not go into. In this country the treasurers of counties apply for it; but in Ireland we have no application of that sort from the treasurers of counties. I see that in Sir Robert Peel's speech, he coupled his promise with the expression of an intention of improving the system of criminal prosecutions both in England and Ireland, and, therefore, I apprehend that the mode in which those sums would have been distributed would have depended upon other measures which he would have introduced, if he had remained in office.

95. You have in Ireland an officer called the Paymaster of Civil Services, with whom you communicate?—Yes.

96. If the 18,000*l*. per annum had been paid, would it have been through that officer?—The mode in which application would have been made for it, would have been by the Irish Government making application for the issue of the money. If any treasurer of a county had made application to the Paymastee of Civil Services, that would have been forwarded to the Treasury.

97. Do you think that the reason why the money was not paid was, that no demand was made by the treasurers of counties for it?—Yes.

98. *Chairman*.] Can you state what has become of those four votes of 9,000*l*. for the first half-year, and 18,000*l*. for each of the three subsequent years?—They never were expended. No application was made for them. I see in the

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evidence of the present Lord Chancellor of Ireland, which he gave before the Committee on Public Prosecutions, that he says that all criminal prosecutions of any importance are conducted by the Government solicitors in Ireland; therefore, unless there can be some class of cases which individuals themselves prosecute, coming within the category of those that are paid for in England, there can hardly be any mode of applying that 17,000 *l.* or 18,000 *l.*, except by improvements in the mode of administering justice.

99. Has any memorial come from Ireland to the Treasury relative to those sums of money?—None.

100. Have complaints been made by individuals with respect to the non-payment of those sums of money?—In a Treasury Minute in 1856, it is stated that several representations had been made by several Irish Members of the House of Commons relative to the intention entertained by Government in 1846. In consequence of that inquiries were made about it.

101. Will you read that Minute?—"The First Lord and the Chancellor of the Exchequer inform the Board that their attention has been recently and repeatedly called by several Irish Members of the House of Commons to the intention entertained by the Government in 1846 of relieving the several counties in Ireland from the burthen at present imposed on them of defraying a considerable portion of the cost of criminal prosecutions from local rates, and to the fact that this intention has never been carried out. The applicants ground their claim to this relief upon the expressions used by the late Sir Robert Peel, when introducing his measures of commercial policy on 27th January 1846; the words are as follows: 'We propose, in the case of England and in the case of Ireland, that that portion of the charge of the expense of prosecutions which is now borne by local rates shall be borne altogether by the public Treasury. It is true the relief is not great, but I think the change is of importance, as it undoubtedly affords increased means of establishing some control over prosecutions; and you will be amply repaid, in a social point of view, by acquiring that increased control over any sum you may grant. In Scotland you have an admirable system of checking prosecutions by means of a public prosecutor. In Ireland you apply a principle of the same kind by requiring that, in respect of all prosecutions borne by the public, there shall be the assent of a public officer of the Crown. Now, for the purpose of relief, and for the purpose of combining with relief the means of introducing an improvement of your criminal law, I propose that the whole of the remainder of that charge shall be taken from the land, and be borne by the country. The amount will be, in Ireland, about 17,000 *l.*, and in England about 100,000 *l.* a year.' In pursuance of the intentions thus expressed by the Government, special provision was made in the estimates submitted to the House in that and the three following years, for payment of the costs of criminal prosecutions. Ireland formerly paid from county rates, but as it does not appear that any steps were taken by the Irish local authorities to avail themselves of the boon, nor that the Irish executive ever submitted any proposition for carrying out an improved system of public prosecutions (which was a part condition of the grant), the charge was altogether omitted from the estimates in the subsequent year, and has not since been introduced, although the remaining moiety of the charge for 'Maintenance of Prisoners,' which was conceded on the same occasion by Sir Robert Peel's Government, has continued to this day. The First Lord and Chancellor of the Exchequer have satisfied themselves that there is no trace of any document in existence showing, 1st. How the sum of 17,000 *l.* was fixed upon as the estimate for Ireland; nor, 2d. In what way it was proposed to distribute the amount of the annual vote. In these circumstances, and adverting to the claim which has been preferred by Irish members upon the present Government to carry out the announced intention of the Government of the year 1846, the First Lord and Chancellor of the Exchequer submit to the Board that it would be desirable to lay the whole matter before the Irish Government, requesting the Lord Lieutenant to review the circumstances, to take into consideration the fact that a sum of about 50,000 *l.* is already annually voted for the salaries of the Crown solicitors and their expenses, and for the expenses of prosecutions, and for Crown witnesses in Ireland; and to report to this Board what, in his Excellency's opinion, would best meet the justice of the case, and at the same time carry out in its integrity the arrangement with which the grant is coupled in Sir R. Peel's speech, viz., 'An improvement in the criminal law, by establishing an increased control

control over prosecutions.' It appears to the First Lord and the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the present would be a very favourable moment for considering the question of criminal prosecutions, as they understand that a Bill is about to be introduced by the Irish Government to alter the mode in which justices' clerks in Ireland are at present remunerated for criminal and other business transacted before the justices, in which question is involved a fund arising from fines and forfeitures, which, in the case of England, are paid into the public Exchequer through the receiver of fines, and which, under any circumstances, may be considered generally applicable in diminution of the charge on the public for prosecutions, &c. My Lords approve and desire that a letter be written to the Chief Secretary in the terms of this Minute, requesting him to explain to the Lord Lieutenant that the object which my Lords have in view is to ascertain how far the spirit of the arrangement proposed in 1846 has been acted upon by an assimilation of the amount paid out of public funds in Ireland, with the like amount so paid in England; and in the event of any further grant being deemed necessary in respect to the cost of prosecutions, to introduce into Ireland a system, the want of which is so much felt in England, viz., an improved system of conducting prosecutions, and an efficient check and control over the expenditure of the money applied for that purpose. Request the Chief Secretary to consider the question, as far as possible, a confidential one at present, as, until this Board shall have before them more information than they at present possess, it is impossible for their Lordships to decide whether the ground of complaint does really exist, or whether in some other way the promised boon has not, in fact, been already conceded."

102. Has any answer been returned to that Minute?—No answer has been returned to that Minute.

103. Mr. *Henry Herbert.*] What is the date of that Minute?—It is the 18th of March 1856.

104. Was a copy of that sent to the Irish Government?—A letter was written upon that Minute to the Chief Secretary for Ireland.

105. And no answer has been returned?—None.

106. *Chairman.*] So that if any loss has been sustained by Ireland from the non-fulfilment of that promise, it rests, not with the Treasury, but with the Irish Government?—Yes.

107. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Referring to the years during which 18,000 *l.* was voted, under Vote No. 7, to defray certain charges formerly paid out of the county rates, is it to be inferred that that vote was not called for because, substantially, the object of the vote was fulfilled under Vote No. 6?—I think the point turns upon this: In the evidence before the Select Committee on Public Prosecutors, which was ordered to be printed on the 9th of May 1856, the arrangement made for the carrying out of criminal justice in Ireland is thus described by Mr. Napier, formerly Attorney-general for Ireland, then a member of that Committee. Towards the end of that evidence, in speaking of criminal prosecutions, he says, "Those cases which are marked by the Attorney-general to be prosecuted are taken charge of by the Crown Solicitor, and when the circuit time comes he has the proper bills prepared and the briefs given out to his counsel on the circuit, who exclusively attend to them. The cases which the Attorney-general does not interfere with the private prosecutor may take up, as is done in some instances; it is not very usual, because it is considered that the case having been rejected by the Attorney-general, he does not deem it a fit case, or one with sufficient materials for a prosecution; however, it is open to the private prosecutor; and I have known cases so conducted by the private prosecutor." Now, all the cases conducted by private prosecutors at their own expense would come within the category, which we pay for in England, of felonies and misdemeanors; I do not see any mode in which an application could have been made by treasurers of counties in Ireland to get that repaid to them.

108. Colonel *French.*] Are you aware that the county treasurer would send a demand to the grand jury to reimburse the amount paid by him to the witnesses in that case?—He would.

109. What difficulty would there be in the treasurer demanding from the Paymaster of Civil Services the reimbursement of those sums which he so paid?—If he had made such an application, the Paymaster of Civil Services could have done nothing but forward it to the Treasury, and we should have sent it to the Irish Office; therefore, practically, the application ought to have been made to

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the Irish Government; if it was not, whenever it reached the Treasury we should have sent it to the Irish Government for them to deal with it, or to report to us upon it.

110. Mr. *Henry Herbert.*] Is that money which we did not get in Ireland still to be got, to reimburse us what we ought to have received?—No; that would be carried to account as an unappropriated balance.

111. Mr. *Macartney.*] How soon after the end of the year are those unexpended balances appropriated?—I could not answer that question; that is in another branch of the Treasury.

112. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Where the Crown prosecutes in England, are the whole expenses of the witnesses paid by the Treasury?—We have no Crown prosecutors in England. The prosecutions are conducted at the assizes and quarter sessions, and the expenses of those prosecutions, by an order of the court, the treasurer of the county is bound to repay. Then the treasurer of the county sends to the Treasury an account of what he has paid. We subject this account now to the practical supervision of professional persons, to see that no items are included in that account which are not mentioned in the clause of the Act of George the Fourth as being those which it was the intention of Parliament to relieve the counties from; and we repay the whole costs of prosecutions, subject to certain rules.

113. But, with respect to Ireland, is it not the fact that the items in Vote No. 6 relate only to the expenses of witnesses in cases where the Crown prosecutes?—I apprehend not. It is with that view that I read that portion of Mr. Napier's evidence. I apprehend that if there are cases which are prosecuted by individuals, there is no mode in which those expenses ever have been or can be at present repaid to the counties.

114. That is to say, that the repayment is confined in Ireland to cases in which the Crown prosecutes?—Yes.

115. Colonel *French.*] Do you pay any of your officials through the county treasurers?—No; what we pay is entirely to repay the county rates sums which have been paid out of the county rates.

116. *Chairman.*] Do not you require now a much stricter audit than you used to require of these charges?—We audit them much more strictly; we require the magistrates' certificate to be sent up, and the order of court. We require the same evidence that the quarter sessions would require.

117. You submit those accounts to certain officers?—We have them examined in detail by a Board subordinate to the Treasury, consisting of professional persons, who are required to go into the details of those items, and to admit only such as we are advised it was the object of Parliament to relieve county rates from.

118. Could you show in any of those accounts the items that were admitted or disallowed?—I can state in general terms what we allow. When a prisoner is brought before the examining magistrate, the expense of the prosecutor's attendance and his witnesses, and the fee of the justice's clerk, is allowed. If he is remanded, no expense of bringing him, and no expense of supporting him in the meantime is allowed. When the prosecutors attend before the grand jury, their expenses are allowed, and again at the assizes; and if it is necessary to have counsel and attorney, that expense is allowed; but no expense is allowed connected with the prisoner till he is positively convicted and given over to the gaol in which his sentence is to be carried out.

119. Mr. *Macartney.*] Do I rightly understand, that before you enter upon those accounts sent from the different counties, they are certified not only by the county treasurer, but by some tribunal connected with the magistrates of the county?—We require that every claim referred to the Treasury should be signed by the chairman of the quarter sessions, but we still subject it to examination in detail.

120. Is any portion of the account for expenses certified by the going judge of assize?—No; the order should be signed by the clerk of assize; he signs the order of the court for the expenses, which is an order to the treasurer to pay.

121. Then I understand that from the court of assize an account is rendered to the treasurer of the county of all expenses of witnesses in certain prosecutions, and he is bound upon the certificate of the clerk of assize, to pay that amount?—Yes.

122. Then a large portion also of the expenses of witnesses and prosecutions is

is certified by the magistrates at quarter sessions?—It would be certified by the clerk of the peace; we receive the order of the court, signed by the clerk of the peace at quarter sessions, or by the clerk of assize; but the claim for a whole county is always certified by the chairman of quarter sessions.

123. With respect to the different items of expenditure for different witnesses, are those fixed by the will of the clerk of assize, or the clerk of the peace, or are they investigated by somebody emanating from the ratepayers, either a justice, or the justice's board?—The charges must be according to a scale which has been framed for the purpose; it used to be certified by the judge of assize, but now, under the Act of the 14th & 15th of Victoria, it is referred to the Secretary of State for his approval. The magistrates send it to the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of State approves it.

124. Then those accounts having gone through a certain process, and coming to you from the county treasurer, you allow them, and make out your estimate accordingly?—We do not always allow them, because we examine them to see that there is no improper charge included. There may be items which it may be proper for the county to pay, but which the county is not intended to be relieved from under the Act of Parliament.

125. Can you state some of those items?—We allow no expense of apprehending a prisoner, nor any expense of bringing him up, nor any expense of his support, until he is convicted.

126. The prosecutor's witnesses are allowed their wages, if they are labourers or artisans, according to a certain scale?—A certain scale has been certified by Sir George Grey for the whole country.

127. In addition to that, is there an allowance for mileage beyond a certain distance?—There is.

128. Do you know how low that goes as to distance?—I think it is beyond two miles; if it exceeds two miles an allowance is made.

129. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Sir Robert Peel, in his speech, estimated the increased charge upon the Treasury for the relief given to the counties at 100,000*l.* a year; has anything like that increased charge been incurred?—Yes; the moiety has got up to a sum considerably more for England alone. In fact, the vote for many years past has been 250,000*l.* He estimated that 100,000*l.* would be the addition; therefore the other moiety must have been 100,000*l.* But as much as 240,000*l.* has been taken. Now, since a strict investigation has been made, it has been reduced again.

130. There has been no change in the application of that additional moiety; it was merely the payment of the second half under the same heads under which the first moiety had been long paid?—Yes; when they first granted the half, the Treasury took no other precaution than requiring the county treasurer to show what had actually been paid by the county. They did not examine the details, to see whether the apprehension charges, and such things, were proper, but considering that the counties would have a direct interest in keeping down all the charges, they gave half that was applied for, without going into detail.

131. Have those charges increased since they were transferred to the Treasury?—They increased very much indeed after the charges were transferred in 1846.

132. What do you attribute that to?—To the counties no longer having the same interest in reducing the expense, no portion of it being paid out of the county rate.

133. Mr. *Macartney.*] Will you have the goodness to take into your hands this Paper, Table A., which shows the charges claimed in aid of county rates for the maintenance of convicts and convicted misdemeanants in England and Wales, and the grants made from 1846 to 1858, and will you state what the amounts were in the years 1848, 1852, and 1858?—The charge for the maintenance of convicts and misdemeanants confined in county gaols in 1848 is 80,000*l.*; in 1852, 90,000*l.*; in 1857, 128,000*l.*; and in 1858, 124,000*l.*

134. Now turn to the next table?—Criminal prosecutions at assizes and sessions, the annual charge is 240,000*l.*

135. Then there has been no variation in the vote for criminal prosecutions?—For 10 years past there has been no variation in the vote.

136. But I observe from the returns that there has been an increased supervision of the accounts, and that instead of 240,000*l.*, it is coming down below that annual rate now?—It is.

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137. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Is it possible to form an opinion of the extravagance or economy of these applications from counties by seeing the mere sums voted year by year, or even the mere sums paid. Must not you also take into account the state of crime in the country, comparing one year with another?—If you take a certain number of years you can arrive at an average; but of course we must take any particular cases into consideration; if there was any particular cause of crime, it would of course affect the average.

138. Do not both the amount of crime and the prices of provisions affect the question very considerably?—Yes, but the prices of provisions would not affect the question, because we never go beyond the maximum of 4*s.* a day per head; if there was an increase of crime, it would, of course, increase the charge for prosecutions; that would be an exceptional circumstance in taking the average.

139. But you say that, upon the whole, you believe there has been greater extravagance under those heads since the whole costs were paid by the public than there had been before?—We found that the charges increased year by year after the whole charge was thrown upon the public.

140. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Does not it require considerable activity to keep the charges down?—Yes; before we established the Board to go into the detail of these charges, we sent persons round to all the assizes and sessions to consult with the clerks of the peace and with the clerks of assize, and we ascertained by positive proof that improper charges were being inserted.

George Macartney, Esq., a Member of the Committee; further Examined.

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141. *Chairman.*] YOU have heard Mr. Seton's evidence; have you any observations to make upon it?—I have. Mr. Seton has stated that the amount voted upon the estimates annually for criminal prosecutions is based upon the accounts sent from the county treasurers in England, which accounts, in order to ascertain the expenses of prosecutions, must have passed the officer of the court of assize and the officer of the court of session; namely, the clerk of assize in England, who is represented in Ireland by the clerk of the Crown, and the clerk of the peace at quarter sessions. He has stated that all those accounts having been certified in that way, and having been audited and examined by the magistrates of the county, the grant is based upon that authority; now, coupling that principle with the practice in Ireland, and the expression used by Sir Robert Peel, that there is a portion of the expenses of prosecutions that still affects the land, I think the Committee have a right to assume that all expenses certified through the county treasurer, or paid through the county treasurer upon the certificate of the clerk of the Crown and the clerk of the peace, come within that portion of the charge on the land that Sir Robert Peel contemplated removing. We have heard that in England parties pay expenses which are not certified either by the clerk of assize or the clerk of the peace. But everything that we claim for as affecting the land has been certified to the treasurer by the clerk of the peace or by the clerk of the Crown. Consequently, that quite confirms what I always believed, that that was the portion of the expense of criminal prosecutions in Ireland which Sir Robert Peel contemplated to have liquidated from the public funds.

142. But you are aware that even those English charges for prosecutions, though countersigned by the clerk of assize and the clerk of the peace, and the chairman of quarter sessions, are subject to revision by the Treasury, and that there are sometimes charges among them that are not allowed?—Certainly.

143. Does the statement that you have made now apply only to those offences that may really be called criminal, or do you want to carry it further than that in Ireland?—No; we consider that only criminal cases are tried during the days of the Crown sessions; everything civil is generally disposed of at petty sessions.

144. But you are aware that the expenses of common assaults, though tried at quarter sessions, are not paid by the Treasury in England?—If they are certified in any way through the clerk of assize, or the clerk of the peace, they must be paid. If they are charges paid out of the county rates, and affecting the land, I apprehend they must be paid.

145. Next as to medical charities. In the extract from the speech delivered by Sir Robert Peel there are these words: "There is another charge borne by the land in this country, of which again, for local purposes, we propose that a share

share shall be borne by the Treasury. I allude to the medical relief in parishes. There is no part of the administration of the poor law which I think has given more dissatisfaction than the administration of medical relief. There seems to have been great unwillingness on the part of the guardians of the poor to afford relief, under the impression that their immediate concern was with the relief of absolute distress, and giving sustenance to those who were in danger of starvation. I am sorry to say that there have been frequently just grounds of complaint in respect to the administration of medical relief. The state of medical relief in Scotland occupied the attention of the House in the course of the last Session; and for the purpose of meeting the views of those who object to the present system, and for the purpose of giving the Executive Government a greater degree of control over it and gradually introducing an amended system, we propose to take one-half of the charge of the payment of medical officers upon the Treasury; thus we shall be enabled to meet the objection of those who demur to the exercise of Government control and to the expense, by offering, on the part of the public, to contribute one-half. In that case I estimate that the amount of charge will be 100,000 *l.* in England, and 15,000 *l.* in Scotland; Ireland is under a separate law with respect to medical relief. I believe the whole subject requires reconsideration, and that it is likely to occupy the attention of both Houses of Parliament in the present Session.

145*. The *Chairman.*] Will you be so good as to state to the Committee your views upon this subject?—A Committee sat in the years 1849 and 1850, and in 1851 an Act was passed putting the medical charities of Ireland under the control and superintendence of the Poor Law Commissioners. In making claim for the sum I have estimated, that is, for half of the salaries of the medical officers, I begin only from the day that we were assimilated in the law to that of England and Scotland, and on referring to the estimates of the amounts granted to England and Scotland I find that there is a sum exceeding 100,000 *l.* in some years to England, and a sum of 10,000 *l.* a year to Scotland for medical charities; therefore, upon the same principle, I say that since the 1st of January 1852, when the law was assimilated, we ought to have received for our medical charities in Ireland a sum, on the average, of 30,000 *l.* a year. The salaries of the medical officers have ranged from 60,000 *l.* to 65,000 *l.*, but I think the average of half the salaries may be taken at 30,000 *l.*; that is the principle upon which I base the claim for medical charities.

146. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Do you infer that there is anything in Sir Robert Peel's speech holding out a promise of relief in that particular?—Certainly, I do. He says, that the law required alteration, and that inquiry was to be instituted in Ireland. Inquiry had been instituted in Scotland, and upon that report he brought Scotland within the category similar to England, and I infer that the same was to be done by Ireland.

147. Specifying the sum of 100,000 *l.* for England, and 15,000 *l.* for Scotland, he proceeds to state as it were in contradistinction, that Ireland is under a separate law with respect to medical relief?—At that time it was so; but I am satisfied that although Sir Robert Peel did not put it in express terms, he meant that so soon as Ireland was brought under a similar law, she would have a claim in that respect.

148. But you do not find a distinct promise to that effect?—No; it is the promise of a statesman dealing with generalities.

149. Mr. *Henry Herbert.*] In this report of Sir Robert Peel's speech, you will find these words: "Thus we shall be able to meet the objection of those who demur to the exercise of Government control, and to the expense, by offering on the part of the public to contribute one half;" has the alteration of the law to which Sir Robert Peel alluded, been made, giving to the Poor Law Commissioners control over the medical charities of Ireland?—Entire control.

150. Therefore, would it not appear that those words could mean nothing, if they did not mean that when that desirable object had been attained, then half the expense was to be paid by the Government?—Yes. The whole of the expense is now paid out of the poor-law rate. Previously to that, one moiety of the expense of the medical charities was contributed by the county rates, the other moiety being provided from private subscriptions; that being the basis of procuring any grant from the counties.

151. *Chairman.*] Medical relief is very well conducted in Ireland, is not it?—I am sorry to say it has not improved under the new system. In certain dis-

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tricts that I am concerned in, the people who ought to have the relief do not like it; there is not the same attention and the same good feeling that there was.

152. Mr. *Grogan.*] Are you of opinion that if medical relief had been on the same footing in Ireland as it was in England and Scotland, at the time when Sir Robert Peel made that speech, he would have included the same proportion of medical relief to Ireland out of the public funds which was given to England and Scotland?—Undoubtedly he would have placed Ireland on the same footing.

153. Would it not have been a great practical injustice, supposing Ireland had been under the same system of medical relief as England and Scotland, to have made grants in England and Scotland, and to have excluded Ireland from the same benefit?—It would, in my opinion.

154. The circumstances to which you refer, as at that time distinguishing the state of medical relief under the poor law in Ireland from that in Great Britain, have since been removed?—Yes; there is a similarity of practice now in the three countries, as to medical charities.

155. *Chairman.*] I will now call your attention to another item, namely, union schoolmasters and schoolmistresses. Have you any remark to make upon that. You observe that there is no promise of Sir Robert Peel to extend that to Ireland?—I look upon that to be a mere omission of the word "Ireland;" I consider that Ireland being under a similar law for the management of the poor, he intended that to apply all over the United Kingdom, and did not find it necessary, as he had done in the previous case, to name particularly England or Ireland specially. Upon that ground I do think it would be a great injustice, that Ireland, the poorer country, should be put upon a different footing as to schoolmasters and schoolmistresses from the more prosperous country. Upon that ground I have made a calculation, and I should say a very moderate one, for the whole of the union schoolmasters in Ireland.

156. Are you aware what the amount now paid to union schoolmasters in Ireland is?—I know that in some places they pay more, and in some places less, according to the number of children entrusted to them; but I have taken the average according to my experience of the class of persons who would be appointed to those situations. Taking the number of unions, I have calculated them at an average of 10 *l.* each; that gives a sum under 2,000 *l.* a year for providing salaries for the schoolmasters and schoolmistresses.

157. Are you aware that when this relief was given to England, Sir Robert Peel made a stipulation that the schoolmasters and schoolmistresses in future appointed in the unions of England and Wales should be to a certain extent certified?—Yes.

158. Would a salary of 10 *l.*, upon the average of unions in Ireland, obtain for you certified masters and mistresses?—I would say so. We have a very fair description of schoolmasters in our unions; they have been instructed in the national schools. The schoolmaster is generally the clerk to the union, or he teaches some of the trades. I should say that, upon the average, about 10 *l.* in addition to the man who exercised the calling of schoolmaster, will obtain a competent man.

159. Are there schoolmasters and schoolmistresses in all the unions?—In all the unions that I am connected with; it is almost imperative.

160. Are they paid out of the poor-rate?—They are paid out of the poor-rate.

160. Sir *Robert Ferguson.*] Are there not premiums given to them from the National Board of Education?—Yes.

162. Mr. *Grogan.*] There is nothing in Sir Robert Peel's speech which either includes or excludes Ireland from the grant, as intended for the nation at large?—No.

163. *Chairman.*] The last item of which Sir Robert Peel proposed to relieve the county rates was the payment of auditors of unions; have you auditors of unions in Ireland?—Ever since the establishment of the poor law, we have had, more or less, official auditors of unions, who have since 1848 been provided for out of the public Treasury; therefore, I presume that Sir Robert Peel thought it but justice to put Ireland upon the same footing in this respect as Great Britain, by relieving it of the expense of auditors of unions.

164. Have you certain papers that you wish to deliver in to the Committee?—The first paper I have to put in is Table A., showing the charges on the county rates in England and Wales, and the grants from 1846 to 1858, inclusive. Table B., which I have already put in, is a similar table for Ireland. Then Table C. is a table which I prepared, showing the charges voted in the annual Estimates for this

this year, under Vote No. 3, "Law and Justice," for England and Wales, for Scotland and for Ireland.

G. Macartney, Esq., M.P.

21 June 1858.

[*The Papers were delivered in, and are as follows:*]

TABLE A.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

SHOWING the several Charges claimed in Aid of County Rates, from April 1846 to April 1848 inclusive, with the Amount charged annually on the Consolidated Fund for the same.

No. 1.—Maintenance of Convicts and Convicted Misdemeanants confined in County Gaols.

		Charge.	Grants.
		£.	£.
April 1846	6 months -	40,000	40,000
„ 1847	12 months -	80,000	80,000
„ 1848	„ - -	80,000	80,000
„ 1849	„ - -	90,000	90,000
„ 1850	„ - -	90,000	90,000
„ 1851	„ - -	90,000	90,000
„ 1852	„ - -	90,000	90,000
„ 1853	„ - -	128,000	128,000
„ 1854	„ - -	128,000	128,000
„ 1855	„ - -	128,000	128,000
„ 1856	„ - -	128,000	128,000
„ 1857	„ - -	128,000	128,000
„ 1858	„ - -	124,000	124,000
	£.	1,324,000	1,324,000

No. 2.—Criminal Prosecutions at Assizes and Sessions, at an Annual Charge of £. 240,000.

		Charge.	Grants.
		£.	£.
April 1846	6 months -	120,000	120,000
„ 1848	12 years -	2,880,000	2,880,000
	£.	3,000,000	3,000,000

No. 3.—Half Medical Relief in Unions.

	Charge.	Grants.
	£.	£.
April 1848 - - -	90,000	90,000
„ 1849 - - -	90,000	90,000
„ 1850 - - -	90,000	90,000
„ 1851 - - -	90,000	90,000
„ 1852 - - -	90,000	90,000
„ 1853 - - -	90,000	90,000
„ 1854 - - -	90,000	90,000
„ 1855 - - -	90,000	90,000
„ 1856 - - -	90,000	90,000
„ 1857 - - -	100,000	100,000
„ 1858 - - -	100,000	100,000
£.	1,010,000	1,010,000

No. 4.—Schoolmasters and Schoolmistresses Salaries of Unions.

	Charge.	Grants.
	£.	£.
April 1847 - - -	22,000	22,000
„ 1848 - - -	22,000	22,000
„ 1849 - - -	22,000	22,000
„ 1850 - - -	22,000	22,000
„ 1851 - - -	22,000	22,000
„ 1852 - - -	22,000	22,000
„ 1853 - - -	22,000	22,000
„ 1854 - - -	22,000	22,000
„ 1855 - - -	22,000	22,000
„ 1856 - - -	24,000	24,000
„ 1857 - - -	28,000	28,000
„ 1858 - - -	30,000	30,000
£.	280,000	280,000

RECAPITULATION.

	Charge.	Grants.
	£.	£.
No. 1. Maintaining convicts and misdemeanants -	724,000	724,000
No. 2. Criminal prosecutions - - - -	3,000,000	3,000,000
No. 3. Half medical relief - - - - -	1,010,000	1,010,000
No. 4. Schoolmasters and schoolmistresses - -	280,000	280,000
£.	5,014,000	5,014,000

G. Macartney, Esq., M.P.

21 June 1858.

TABLE (C.)

SHOWING certain simi lar Charges, Voted in Annual Estimates under No. 3, Law and Justice.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

	£.	s.	d.
1. Solicitor Treasury, and other law charges	46,375	–	–
2. Metropolitan police	118,000	–	–
3. Police courts and justices	52,000	–	–
£.	216,375	–	–

SCOTLAND.

	£.	s.	d.
1. Law officers	3,342	10	–
2. Criminal Crown prosecutions	5,550	–	–
3. Sheriff accounts and prosecutions	50,000	–	–
£.	58,892	10	–

IRELAND.

	£.	s.	d.
1. Law officers of Crown	2,858	17	1
2. Crown solicitors	16,550	–	–
3. Metropolitan police	36,000	–	–
4. Divisional Justices, &c.	16,000	–	–
£.	71,408	17	1

Note.—The following Charges also appear in said Estimate:

	£.	s.	d.
England and Wales, county and borough police	188,250	–	–
Scotland, county police	25,000	–	–
Ireland, proportion of constabulary cost	175,000	–	–

POPULATION.

ENGLAND and WALES	17,666,030	–	–
SCOTLAND	2,863,922	–	–
IRELAND	6,470,500	–	–

Martis, 6° *die Julii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Miles.	Mr. Gladstone.
Sir R. Ferguson.	Mr. H. Herbert.
Mr. Macartney.	Mr. Fortescue.
Mr. Hamilton.	

W. MILES, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Wilmot Seton, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

Wilmot Seton, Esq.
6 July 1858.

165. *Chairman.*] HAVE you brought with you any returns for which you were asked by the Committee the last time it sat?—I have.

166. Will you be good enough to state what the nature of those returns is?—First of all, the Committee wished to have returns of copies of any circular letter addressed by the Treasury to treasurers or clerks of the peace in England, subsequent to the 1st February 1846, informing them of the determination of Parliament, from and after the 1st April 1846, to make grants in aid of county rates under the following heads:—1st. Maintenance of convicts and convicted misdemeanants confined in county gaols, for fuel, food, clothing and bedding." Now the Treasury did not issue any circular; but, after some communication with the Secretary of State, a circular was issued from the Home Office; I have procured a copy of that circular, which will give the Committee the information they require.

167. Be kind enough to read that circular?—This is a letter which is signed by Mr. Phillipps, then Under Secretary of State for the Home Department; it is a circular sent to the Chairmen of the Quarter Sessions; it is dated Whitehall, 15th December 1846, and is as follows:—

Sir,—I am directed by Secretary Sir G. Grey to call the attention of the magistrates assembled at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to the provision of an Act of the last Session, cap. 116, to apply certain monies out of the Consolidated Fund, and monies in the Exchequer, to the service of the year 1846, by which it is enacted that a sum of money not exceeding 40,000 *l.* may be applied to defray the expense of maintaining prisoners under sentence for felony or misdemeanor, and other similar charges, for the half-year ending 31st March 1847. In preparing the estimate upon which this grant was made by Parliament, it was considered that the sum of 40,000 *l.* would be sufficient to relieve the several counties throughout the United Kingdom, and also such boroughs as have Quarter Sessions, and of which the cost of maintenance of convicted prisoners is paid by a rate raised in the borough, in the nature of a county rate, from the charge of the maintenance of the said half-year of all prisoners convicted at the Assizes and Quarter Sessions of felony, or misdemeanor, or other similar charges.

For the purpose of obtaining information necessary for enabling Her Majesty's Government to distribute and appropriate this money to the purpose for which it is granted, I request on the part of Her Majesty's Government, that as soon as may be practicable after the 31st March 1848, you will transmit to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury a return of the amount paid during the half-year ending on that day for the maintenance of prisoners kept at the expense of the county, who have been sentenced at the Assizes and Quarter Sessions for felony and misdemeanor, or any criminal charge triable at the Assizes and Quarter Sessions, showing in such return the name of each prisoner, the offence for which he was convicted, the period during which he was maintained, and the amount paid per week for such maintenance, as nearly as the same can be ascertained, such return to be certified by the magistrates assembled in Session, or at a special meeting, and signed by the Chairman for the time being. I am further to request that you will half-yearly, after the 31st March 1847, cause to be furnished similar returns, so that each return may embrace the amount paid for this purpose during the half-year immediately preceding the date of the return certified as before mentioned, and that the same may be forwarded to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury as soon after the close of the half year embraced in the return as may be practicable. I have also to request that the name and address of the county treasurer may be stated at the foot of the returns furnished in pursuance of this letter.

Wilmot Seton, Esq.

6 July 1858.

168. Now, in consequence of the returns thus given to the Treasury by the treasurers of counties, was anything else done either by the Home Office or by the Treasury afterwards?—I have brought a circular which was issued subsequently by the Treasury, showing the exact form in which those returns should be rendered.

169. Be kind enough to read it to the Committee?—This is a return which is signed by Mr. Wilson, when Secretary of the Treasury; it is dated the 1st November 1857, and is as follows:—

Sir,—I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to transmit for your guidance a form in which all returns of the expenses of maintenance of prisoners must be rendered for any period subsequent to the 30th of September 1857, and I am to request that the necessary directions may be given to the proper officers for the future preparation of these returns, in strict conformity with the accompanying form.

I should state that this form was issued after the establishment of the Board of Examiners of Criminal Accounts.

170. Mr. *Macartney*.] What is the heading of that document?—The heading is "A return of the amount paid during the half year ending the day of for food, clothing, bedding and fuel, on account of prisoners kept at the expense of the who have been sentenced at the assizes and quarter sessions for felony or misdemeanour, or any criminal charge triable at the assizes and quarter sessions, or who have been summarily convicted under Acts 11 & 12, 13 & 14, and 18 & 19 Vict."

171. *Chairman*.] So that all estimates after that for a time were framed upon the determination of the Government merely to pay for those items?—For those items, food, clothing, bedding, and fuel.

172. What subsequently took place, as far as regards the Treasury, as to the allowance after the year 1847?—The only step taken by the Treasury since 1847, has been the issue of this circular in 1857, requiring more detailed accounts than had been previously rendered.

173. But when was the charge applied as a maximum of 4 *s.* a week?—I cannot give you the exact date of that. I have some papers before me which I have looked at. I find, upon examining a great quantity of old Treasury minutes, and the returns which came in about that time, that the claims vary from less than 2 *s.* 6 *d.* to sums of as high as about 7 *s.*; and that it was in consequence of that very great variation that the Treasury determined to take a maximum of 4 *s.*, which was felt justly to meet those claims.

174. Now can you give the Committee any statement of what was done in Ireland upon the same charge for the maintenance of convicts and misdemeanants?—In the Treasury minute which I had in my hand when I was here before, attention was called to the fact that the allowance for Ireland varied from 2 ¾ *d.* to 6 *d.* a day, but beyond that I can give no information, as I have nothing to do with the distribution of the grant in Ireland.

175. Do you recollect whether a particular estimate was taken, apart from England, or was it altogether placed in one estimate in the year 1847. I mean this particular charge?—I cannot answer that question; the estimates were framed differently then, and I had nothing to do with the subject.

176. Are there any other returns that you wish to put in?—The order of the Committee requires, "Secondly, Criminal Prosecutions at Assizes and Sessions." The Treasury issued no communication after the vote was taken, in consequence of Sir Robert Peel's speech in 1846, because that was only to repay the other moiety, one-half having been already issued; but in 1836, in consequence of communications between the Home Office and the Treasury, the Secretary of State directed a letter to be issued which was to regulate the issue of the first half. I have procured a copy of that circular from the Home Office.

177. Does that apply to both England and Ireland?—This applies only to England.

178. Have you got anything that does apply to Ireland?—Not on that subject. I have some returns of "Half Medical Relief in Unions," and "Schoolmasters' Salaries in Unions." The communication I was on the point of reading just now was connected with the expense of criminal prosecutions. The previous part of my examination had been with reference to the maintenance of prisoners.

179. You

179. You would not go any further with reference to the maintenance of prisoners than you did?—No.

180. I then stopped you, and brought you to prosecutions?—Yes.

181. Now be kind enough to read that circular?—This is a circular which is signed by Mr. Phillipps, then Under Secretary for the Home Department, and dated the 31st of May 1836:

Sir,—I am directed by Lord John Russell to call the attention of the council of the borough of to certain provisions of an Act of last Session, cap. 80, intituled, "An Act to apply a sum of money out of the Consolidated Fund, and the Surplus of Ways and Means to the Service of the year 1835, and to appropriate the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament," by which it is enacted that a sum of money not exceeding 100,000 *l.* may be issued and applied to defray, in the year 1835, certain charges hitherto paid out of the county rates, which it is intended should be appropriated in the following manner; viz.

Towards the payment of the expenses of criminal prosecutions at assizes and sessions in England and Wales, 80,000 *l.*

For the conveyance of convicts from the several prisons to the hulks or depôts for convicts, 30,000 *l.*

In preparing an estimate upon which the grant of 100,000 *l.* was made by Parliament, it was considered that that sum would be sufficient to relieve the county rates throughout England and Wales, and also to relieve such boroughs as might have quarter sessions, and in which the cost of criminal prosecutions are paid by a rate raised in the borough in the nature of a county rate, from the charges of one-half of the expense of criminal prosecutions at the assizes and quarter sessions, and of the whole expense incurred for the conveyance of prisoners under sentence of transportation to the depôts for convicts; and His Majesty's Government is desirous that no time should be lost in appropriating the money to the purposes for which it was granted.

With this view, Lord John Russell requests that you will transmit to him the following returns, viz.:

A return of the amount paid for the expenses of criminal prosecutions carried on at the last July and October quarter sessions, and also at the last summer assizes of the county (if any of the borough prisoners were tried at such assizes), distinguishing the cases tried at the sessions from those at the assizes.

A return showing the amount paid for the conveyance of prisoners under sentence of transportation to the depôt for convicts between the 1st July and the 31st December 1835, being a period of six months, distinguishing the names of the prisoners, whether tried and sentenced at the assizes or sessions, and the places from whence and to which they were conveyed.

Lord John Russell requests also that from the 1st January 1836, and henceforth, the returns may be made out half-yearly from the 1st January to the 30th June, and from the 1st July to the 31st December, so that each return may embrace the expenses for an equal number of sessions and assizes, and that such returns certified and reported upon by the Council may be forwarded to the Lords of the Treasury as soon after the close of half-year as may be practicable.

I am to request that the name and address of the borough treasurer may be stated at the foot of the returns furnished in pursuance to this letter.

182. Then that was the system which was adopted up to the year 1846?—Exactly.

183. And then the whole costs of prosecutions were taken by Government?—The whole of them; that is in 1846.

184. Have you any other documentary evidence which you wish to produce?—I have brought with me two communications which were issued by the Treasury in September 1857, after the Board of Examiners was appointed giving more explicit directions as to the mode in which those returns should be prepared.

185. They only relate to England?—They only relate to England.

186. Be good enough to hand them in?—Yes. (*The Witness handed in documents marked* A *and* B.) In consequence of one of the questions of the Committee, as to whether any applications had been made in Ireland for issues from the grant, I wrote to Mr. Grey, the Paymaster of Civil Services, for information on that subject. An official letter was also addressed to the Under Secretary of Ireland for information which Mr. Hamilton required upon the subject, and this is a letter, dated 2d of July 1858, in reply to that inquiry:

Vide Appendix.

Sir,—I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, in reply to your letter of the 25th ultimo, that there do not appear to have been any applications from the counties in Ireland with reference especially to the expenses of criminal prosecutions; but memorials, of which the enclosed are copies, have been received in reference to the intentions of the late Sir Robert

Sir Robert Peel in 1846, for extending further relief to local rates, and some of them advert to the expenses in question.

July 1858. The Irish Government have sent us several communications which were addressed to them. I will read one of them, which will show the nature of them :

The grand jury of the county of Clare request the attention of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant to the fact, that in England the support of all convicted prisoners by juries is charged on the Consolidated Fund; but, that in Ireland they are paid for out of the rates of the counties and boroughs, with the exception of male prisoners sentenced to transportation, and pray his Excellency to have the law of taxation, in this respect, assimilated.

187. What is the date of that?—The date of this is not given. The letter from the Irish Government says, they have been received with reference to the intentions of the late Sir Robert Peel in 1846. I have one dated the 16th April 1853 :

To his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, &c., &c., &c.

The Memorial of the Board of Superintendence of the County of Limerick Gaol,

Most respectfully showeth,

That the grand jury of this county, at the late assizes here, had under their consideration the several details of the prisons of this county, when it was suggested that application be made to your Excellency to obtain an order for the repayment of the cost of maintenance attending the support of persons convicted by a jury and sentenced to imprisonment, and to assimilate thereby the practice in this country, as is afforded to the counties in England.

With this view the grand jury referred the mode of application to the Board of Superintendence, and to give facility for any necessary communication to forward their views on this subject.

This Board, therefore, respectfully make application to obtain the order of your Excellency to reimburse the county for the expenses of maintenance in this gaol of persons convicted by a jury, in the same way that repayment is made for the maintenance of convicts under rule of transportation, by the Paymaster of Civil Services, to the treasurer of the county.

The Board respectfully submit the foregoing memorial, for the purposes mentioned.

188. Was no communication made from the Irish Government to the Treasury upon that?—None.

189. Have you any other document which you wish to bring before the notice of the Committee?—You asked me to bring the returns of the county of Somersetshire, and the schedule of the disallowances which had been made. I have brought those with me.

190. Be good enough to take any particular case, and state the disallowances that had been made?—Where disallowances are made, it is after examination by the Board of Examiners, who are professional persons, and who make the disallowances under particular heads. This is a printed schedule, which is sent to the treasurer of the county when we acquaint him with the result under each head of disallowance, as follows: "apprehension charges, constables, justices' clerks' fees, prosecutor or witnesses' detention, mileage of prosecutors or witnesses, extra charges, court fees, counsel, attorney, subpœna and service, extra charges, prosecutors' and witnesses' detention, prosecutors' and witnesses' mileage, extra expenses." If, under those heads, anything is struck out, the particular sum which is struck out is set against the particular trial, as, for instance, Regina *versus* John Daly, the total costs claimed, six guineas. I see under the head of justices' clerks' fees, that an item of sixpence was disallowed there. Here is one where there are more. Total costs claimed 21 *l.* 19*s.*: 3 *s.* disallowed from the constable; 10 *s.* 6 *d.* from the justices' clerks' fees; 1 *l.* 15 *s.* prosecutors' or witnesses' detention, making a sum of 2 *l.* 8 *s.* 6 *d.* disallowed.

191. So that in every case tried before Assizes and Quarter Sessions, the Bill is brought before Government or the Treasury, and the Treasury strike out, if they think fit, certain sums which have been previously paid by the treasurer of the county?—They do; they examine every item, and strike out any charge which they do not consider to come within the provisions of the grant of Parliament, and the rules framed for its administration.

192. Taking the whole of England, considerable deductions have been made?—Yes; I have had before me a return showing the extent to which those reductions have been carried, and they amount to 10 per cent. In examining accounts which amounted to about 50,000 *l.*, disallowances to the extent of about 5,000 *l.* had been made on them.

193. As

193. As regards the subject of Ireland, and the different payments to Ireland, you have no further information to offer to the Committee?—I have no further information.

194. Mr. *Macartney*.] You have stated that in that audit of an account of 50,000 *l*., a disallowance of 10 per cent. was made?—About 10 per cent.

195. Now previous to that account being furnished, had all those items been paid by the county treasurer, as far as your knowledge goes?—In some cases they were paid. In other cases, if a very heavy bill came in which seemed to require explanation, particular inquiries were made, and perhaps in that case several items would be disallowed. In other cases information was called for by treasurers who were anxious to do what was right; and the Treasury told them what would be allowed and what would not be allowed. It was in consequence of the total want of uniformity and of system in administering the grant that the Treasury grappled with this question about two years ago.

196. Can you inform the Committee whether the disallowances are at the cost of the county, or are returned to the parties by whom they have been paid?—At the cost of the county, I presume.

197. As far as your experience goes it is at the loss of the county?—At the loss of the county.

198. Do you not conceive that in 1856, the Treasury having issued a minute upon the subject, upon the complaint of Irish Members, which minute, I think, you produced on the last day that the Committee sat; do you not conceive that that had been officially brought to the notice of the Treasury previous to its being brought before this Committee?—It was brought to the notice of the Treasury that no issue had been made in respect of those grants; and the object of the Treasury in issuing that minute to the Irish Government was to see what on the whole had been done for Ireland, and whether there had not been an extent of allowance made to Ireland which was equivalent to the advantages which England derived from grants of a like character.

199. In consequence of that communication, was any document returned in reply thereto that elicited the facts as they were intended to be by the Treasury?—We never received any reply to that communication to the Irish Government. In the speech of Sir Robert Peel it was expressly stated that the grant was to be coupled with certain improvements in the mode of administering justice in England and Ireland. None of those improvements have taken place, and therefore one of the conditions upon which that grant may be considered to have been imposed has never been fulfilled: "We propose in the case of England and in the case of Ireland that that portion of the charge of the expense of prosecutions which is now borne by local rates shall be borne altogether by the public Treasury. It is true the relief is not great; but I think the change is of importance, as it undoubtedly affords increased means of establishing some control over prosecutions, and you will be amply repaid in a social point of view by acquiring that increased control over any sum you may grant."

200. Sir *R. Ferguson*.] The Vote 26 in the Estimate No. 3, in the year 1857, contains the item, "Prosecutions, and other law charges in Ireland." It contains the sum for the expense of prosecutions and Crown witnesses, 30,000 *l*.?—I have the Estimate for this year.

201. Near the end of the Estimate you will see the figure 30,000 *l*.?—£. 30,000.

202. In the Estimate of 1846, 1847, and 1848, that item is 42,000 *l*. in one year, and 48,000 *l*. in another. Has there been any change in the system since that reduction has been made?—None.

203. None that you are aware of?—I am aware of no change. There has been no change in the system of paying those witnesses since the year 1842, when the Crown solicitors were placed upon salary instead of preferring their own bills of costs. I am not aware of any change since 1842.

204. *Chairman*.] Have you any other return with which you wish to furnish the Committee?—I have one return relating to county rates in Ireland for the information of the Committee. It is a return to "copies of any circular or other letters addressed by the Treasury to the Paymaster of Civil Services in Ireland subsequently to 1st February 1846, informing him of the determination of Par-

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6 July 1858.

liament from and after the 1st of April 1846, to make grants in aid of county rates:—"

— Nil. —

Paymaster of Civil Services Office,
Dublin Castle, 1 July 1858.

Then the letter is—

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
29 June 1858.

Sir,

The Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, in which you request to be informed whether any circular or other letter from the Treasury was addressed to this department since the beginning of the year 1846, respecting grants in aid of county rates on account of half medical relief in unions, schoolmasters' salaries in unions, and expense of auditors in unions; and in reply, the Commissioners desire to state that no letter or circular on this subject appears to have been received from the Treasury during the period referred to.

The salaries of the auditors of union accounts have been paid out of the annual grants made by Parliament since the year 1848; previously to that year, they were paid partly by Parliamentary grant, and partly out of the poor-rates, the proportion paid out of the Parliamentary grant being 200 *l.* per annum to each of four auditors. The auditors (five in number at present) are now paid wholly by Parliamentary grant.

I have another, which is an

Extract from a Letter from the Paymaster of Civil Services, Ireland, to *George Alexander Hamilton*, Esq., M.P., Treasury, London, dated 28th June 1858.

I beg to state, with reference to the 63,000 *l.* voted in the following years, viz.,

	£.
1846-7 - - - - - - - -	9,000
1847-8 - - - - - - - -	18,000
1848-9 - - - - - - - -	18,000
1849-50 - - - - - - - -	18,000
	£. 63,000

for expenses of prosecutions at assizes and quarter sessions, which is referred to in Mr. Macartney's letter, there have not been any payments made through this office for that service.

I beg to transmit the account relating to constabulary police, requested by Mr. Macartney.

I have another document,—

The sum of 63,000 *l.* being part of the votes taken in the years 1846, 1847, 1848, and 1849, for various expenses, including criminal prosecutions in Ireland, at assizes, was issued in each year for the general services included in the votes for those years, and special sums were applied to defray the charges formerly paid out of county rates in Ireland.

Felton Frederick William Hervey, Esq., called in; and Examined.

F. F. W. Hervey, Esq.

205. WHAT office do you hold in Ireland?—I am Inspector-General of Prisons.

206. How long have you held that office?—Since January 1855.

207. Sir *R. Ferguson.*] Do the returns from all the gaols in Ireland pass through your office?—All.

208. Can you inform the Committee the total cost of the gaols in Ireland for the year 1857?—The total cost for 1857, deducting profit on works, was 74,632 *l.* 11 *s.* 8¾ *d.*

209. What was the total cost of each prisoner in 1857?—£. 22. 5. 7.

210. What do you make the total cost of the diet?—£. 4. 2. 6.

211. And the cost of maintenance, omitting the establishment charges, but including food, clothing, fuel, bedding, soap, medicine, hospital diet, and extra diet?—£. 7. 12. 1.

212. What was the average daily cost of each prisoner, including establishment charges?—One shilling and twopence halfpenny.

213. What is the average daily cost of the diet of each prisoner?—Twopence three farthings.

214. And

214. And the average daily cost of maintenance?—Under the heading to which you refer, 5 *d.*

215. Be good enough to tell the Committee for what class of prisoners the Government pays at present in Ireland?—They pay for the maintenance of military prisoners, and for those who are prosecuted for breach of the revenue laws, who are a very small number. Besides these the only prisoners are those sentenced to penal servitude and transportation.

216. At what rate do they pay for them?—They pay now at the rate of 4½ *d.* a day for males, and 3½ *d.* a day for females. Allow me to read a statement here from the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Convict Prisons with regard to the rates:—

RATES of Payment sanctioned by the Treasury for Maintenance of Convicts under Sentence of Transportation or Penal Servitude, in the Irish County and Borough Gaols, up to 31st December 1852.

Males - - -	3½ *d.* per head per day.
Females - -	nil.

From 1st January 1853 up to the present time (sanctioned by Treasury Letters of 30th November 1853 and 15th January 1855.)

Males - - -	4½ *d.* per head per day.
Females - -	3½ *d.* „ „

Previous to 1st January 1855 payment for each convict did not commence until 30 days after conviction had expired. Since that date payment takes effect immediately after conviction.

At the close of each assizes and sessions, all convicts reported fit for removal are now transferred from the gaols to the Government prisons.

217. Has any other change been made in the mode of charging that you are aware of?—None.

218. To what department do you know, is that charge paid?—It is immediately paid to the county by the Paymaster of Civil Services in Ireland. The charge is first sent up from the local inspector at the various gaols to the Board of Directors of Convict Prisons. By them it is sent over to the Treasury, who then authorise the Paymaster of Civil Services to issue it to the counties.

219. Have you got any list of the number of prisoners in Irish gaols on the 1st of this month?—I have a return here of the 1st July 1858, from which it appears that there were 21 males and 10 females.

220. What class?—Convicts; that is, sentenced to penal servitude.

221. Sentenced to penal servitude and in county gaols?—Yes. I beg to hand that in. (*The Witness handed in a Statement marked* C.) *Vide* Appendix.

222. Mr. *Fortescue.*] The number which you have given is the number they are now paying for?—Yes, the number the Government is liable for at this moment.

223. Sir *R. Ferguson.*] Have you any return of the number of those at that time in gaol, convicted by a jury either at sessions or assizes?—A return on the 1st July?

224. At any time?—I have a return of the number in 1856 and 1857 that were convicted by jury for felony and misdemeanor. I have no return of the number on the 1st of July.

225. What are the numbers in 1856 and 1857?—In 1856, there were males, 1,097 felony; 932 misdemeanor; eight criminal lunatics. And, females, 895 felony; 154 misdemeanor, and one criminal lunatic; making 2,037 males, and 1,050 females.

226. In that year how many were paid for by the Government sentenced to penal servitude?—We have no return of the number paid for, but I have a return of the amount.

227. What was the amount?—In 1856 it was 1,509 *l.* 14 *s.* 11 *d.*

228. Mr. *Hamilton.*] What was the total cost of maintaining prisoners under sentences for felony or misdemeanor during the same year?—For 1856 the total amount of the maintenance of all prisoners of all sorts in the Irish gaols, including diet, fuel, and medicine, was 28,256 *l.* 13 *s.*

229. Have you any means of arriving at an estimate of the total cost of maintaining prisoners under sentence for felony or misdemeanor?—It has been ascertained, by calculation in several different ways, that one-third of the expense is incurred for the maintenance of prisoners convicted by a jury, exclu-

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sive of those who are sentenced to penal servitude or transportation. Therefore, the cost would be one-third of the sum I have given.

230. That cost being defrayed by the counties ?—Yes.

231. Mr. *Macartney.*] And no portion of that repaid from the Consolidated Fund ?—None whatever.

232. As long as you have been in office the same has been the practice ?—Yes.

233. The public paying for those sentenced to death or penal servitude ?—Or transportation.

234. And not for those parties, either convicts or misdemeanants, convicted by a jury ?—No.

235. Is there any payment made for criminal lunatics in Ireland from the Treasury ?—None whatever.

236. Are you aware that in England they are paid for ?—I have understood so ; I am not aware of it officially.

237. Sir *R. Ferguson.*] Can you tell the Committee the amount which in your opinion has been paid by the counties in Ireland since the year 1846, on account of criminals convicted by a jury either for felony or misdemeanor ?—I prepared a return the other day, as soon as I knew I was coming here, which I have endeavoured to make as accurate as I can, and which, perhaps, I had better read to the Committee.

238. *Chairman.*] If you please ?—

Cost of maintenance for all prisoners confined in the gaols of Ireland since 1850, the first year in which the convict prisons were separated from county prisons :—convicts (*i. e.* sentenced to transportation and penal servitude, and left in the county gaols from want of room in the Government prisons), prisoners convicted by a jury, summary convictions, lunatics and untried.

The articles charged for are diet, fuel, medicine, hospital diet, extra diet (the three last items, I understand, are included in the charge for diet made upon the Government in England). Soap and candles, straw, male clothing, female clothing, furniture and bedding.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
I find that in the year 1850 the amount was - - - -	53,011	19	1
In 1851 - - - - - - - - - - -	45,248	9	1
„ 1852 - - - - - - - - - - -	37,328	18	7
„ 1853 - - - - - - - - - - -	36,007	5	10
„ 1854 - - - - - - - - - - -	40,021	2	2
„ 1855 - - - - - - - - - - -	33,060	13	9
„ 1856 - - - - - - - - - - -	28,256	13	–
„ 1857 - - - - - - - - - - -	24,970	7	10

The total cost for maintenance of all prisoners for eight years being nearly 300,000 *l.*, and those convicted by a jury, exclusive of those sentenced to transportation or penal servitude, numbering about one-third of the whole, the cost of maintaining those convicted by a jury for the last eight years has amounted to about 100,000 *l.*, or at the rate of 12,500 *l.* a year, which for 12 and a half years would leave a sum of 156,250 *l.* due to Ireland ; and in future a payment at the rate of 5 *d.* per head per day would provide for such maintenance.

That calculation has been made in different ways by several gentlemen. Mr. Connellan, my colleague, made it the other day, away from me ; he came to nearly the same thing, and Mr. Matheson came to precisely the same thing.

239. Be good enough to hand that document in ?—Yes. (*The Witness handed in Document, marked* D.) The other calculation comes to 12,500*l* a year for the years 1852-3, and 4 ; for the years 1855-6-7, it only comes to 9,060 *l.* ; but in the years preceding 1852 it would have been a great deal more than 12,500 *l.*, so that it would have brought the whole to 12,500 *l.*

Vide Appendix.

240. Is there a large proportion of the persons convicted in Ireland sentenced to penal servitude, or are they sentenced to long terms of imprisonment ?—In 1857 there were 18 males and one female sentenced to transportation for life ; 13 males and five females for transportation for 15 years, and one male and one female for transportation for other periods ; and the penal servitude sentences for life were four males ; 14 years, one male and one female ; 10 years, 27 males ; six years, 24 males and five females ; four years, 176 males and 91 females ; three years, 31 males and 23 females ; and other periods, 13 males and three females ; amounting in all, transportation and penal servitude, to males, 308 ; females, 130. Then, sentences of prisoners for all terms of imprisonment—those would come under the head of convicted by a jury for felony and misdemeanor, and supported by the counties—three years and above two (for the returns are headed in this way), 5 males ; for 18 months to two years,

years, 57 males and 15 females; 12 to 18 months, 77 males and 18 females; nine to 12 months, 299 males and 134 females; six to nine months, 98 males and 62 females; three to six months, 649 males and 378 females; and from two to three months, 1,140 males and 786 females. I do not think it is necessary to go lower; it seems that from one month to two most of the cases are disposed of summarily.

241. Mr. *Macartney.*] Are you aware of a growing dislike on the part of the judges to sentence to penal servitude in preference to long periods of imprisoment?—I am aware of several instances in which judges have preferred the sentence to two or three years of ordinary imprisonment, in consequence of their belief that it was a greater punishment.

242. Has that practise arisen from a belief that in what are called Government prisons there is a higher rate of food, a better class of maintenance, than in the county gaols?—Undoubtedly; in the Government prisons meat is given two and three times a week; in the county prisons there is no meat from one year's end to the other. Occasionally it has come to my knowledge that prisoners have requested the judge to sentence them to penal servitude rather than leave them for two years' imprisonment or three years' imprisonment in the county gaol.

243. In making the statement of the total cost for the year 1857, you stated the net cost to the counties, after deducting the produce of labour?—Yes.

244. Can you state in figures what was the return of labour from county gaols for that year?—The profit and works for the whole of the gaols in 1857 was 2,423 *l.* 14 *s.* 7 *d.*

245. After the cost of materials was deducted?—Yes; that is the profit afterwards.

246. Is the employment of prisoners upon profitable works in county gaols extending?—No, I should say not; the sentences have become very short, and the number very few. In many gaols there are barely sufficient hands to perform the prison duties.

247. That has been the case for the last three or four years?—For the last three or four years.

248. *Chairman.*] Can you tell us when the rate of 4½ *d.* a day was first established?—It is stated in one of the returns which I have given in. On the 1st January 1853, it was raised to 4½ *d.* I do not think there has been a return made of the sum paid by the Government for the maintenance of convicts in 1857. I do not think you have had that return. I have it here, and perhaps it is as well to supply it. You have only got down to 1856. The sum paid by the Government to the county and borough gaols in Ireland, for the maintenance of prisoners under penal servitude and transportation in 1857, was 544 *l.* 5 *s.* 9½ *d.*

249. Have you any other information which you wish to give to the Committee touching this part of their inquiry?—I think not. It is a fact that there never has been anything received from the Government for the maintenance of any prisoners except those under the rule of penal servitude and transportation. We have endeavoured to calculate as near as possible what the cost of those convicted by juries has been. Some stress has been laid upon the 4 *s.* a week that is allowed in England for maintenance of prisoners; 3 *s.* would be the maximum to be allowed in Ireland. I conceive that 3 *s.* a week would be about the sum to fix, in the same way that 4 *s.* is fixed in England.

250. Mr. *Fortescue.*] You think that 3 *s.* a week in Ireland will correspond with 4 *s.* in England?—Yes; in Ireland the diet is not so good. We do not give any cheese or meat. I have a return here of the cost in England, which perhaps it is desirable to put in. The average per head in England divided into three headings: building repairs and furniture, 8 *l.* 5 *s.* 3 *d.*; officers' salaries, allowances, and pensions, 10 *l.* 9 *s.* 2¾ *d.*; then for prisoner's clothing, diet, &c., 10 *l.* 6 *s.* 8¼ *d.*, amounting in all to 29 *l.* 1 *s.* 2 *d.* against our 21 *l.*

Veneris, 9° *die Julii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Sir Brooke Bridges.	Mr. Macartney.
Sir Robert Ferguson.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Fortescue.	Mr. Wilson.
Mr. Gladstone.	

WILLIAM MILES, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Robert Gregg*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *R. Gregg.*

9 July 1858.

251. *Chairman.*] YOU are in the Paymaster's Office?—I am.

252. How long have you been in that situation?—Thirty-nine years.

253. Do any grants which may be made by Parliament at any time for Irish purposes, come through your office?—We know nothing of the votes; we are the medium of issue. We get transfers from the Exchequer, on the orders of the Treasury, and issue the money.

254. When that transfer is made, is there no communication or minute sent to you from the Treasury?—A Treasury letter comes to us, saying, that they have ordered the Exchequer to transfer a certain sum of money to us, and stating the service for which it is intended.

255. Have you any records in your office of a certain vote made in the year 1846 of 9,000 *l.*; another in the year 1847-48 of 18,000 *l.*; another in 1849 of 18,000 *l.*, and another in 1850 of 18,000 *l.*?—We have no records, but in the estimates voted the sum of 9,000 *l.* appears for the year 1846-47, and 18,000 *l.* for 1848, and 18,000 *l.* for 1849. Those sums were not issued by us.

256. Did any communication take place from the Treasury relative to those sums?—Not to us. In the year 1848 we issued a sum for the maintenance of convicts in Ireland out of the vote for charges formerly on county rates in 1848, and also in 1849.

257. Was that out of those sums?—No; out of the general vote for charges formerly on county rates.

258. Are the estimates sent over to your office?—Yes, we get the estimates, but we have nothing to do with the distribution of the votes, all that rests with the Treasury; we are the mere bankers for the Treasury.

259. Then if you found a certain vote for Ireland, and you found that vote was not paid, nor any notice taken of it by the Treasury, it would not be part of your duty to remind the Treasury of it?—It is no part of our duty; we are mere imprest paymasters of the money sent to us by the Treasury.

260. And that money was never issued?—It was never issued; those three sums of 18,000 *l.*, and the sum of 9,000 *l.* were never issued.

261. Mr. *Wilson.*] Out of what sum was the issue made for county rates?—In 1848, out of the general vote for charges formerly on county rates.

262. Do you mean out of the vote for the costs of prosecutions?—No; the vote for county rates. I hold in my hand a return of the sums issued and paid to the county treasurers of Ireland, and I find in 1848, 2,620 *l.* 8 *s.* 6 *d.* issued out of the vote for county rates. The Treasury letter to us desires us to pay it, and to charge it to the county rates.

263. Does the Treasury letter state from what vote it was issued?—The Treasury letter says, I desire you will pay so-and-so, charging the same to the vote in aid of county rates.

264. *Chairman.*] Have you any document of that description with you?—No, I have not the Treasury letter; the moment we make an issue our authorities go to the Audit Office.

Mr. *R. Gregg.*

9 July 1858.

265. Mr. *Macartney.*] You stated that in the years 1848 and 1849 there was a Treasury letter sent to the Office of the Paymaster of Civil Services, directing certain payments to be made to county rates for the maintenance of prisoners; did that letter tell you from what fund you were to take that money?—We do not keep an account of grants at all; we do not trouble ourselves about that.

266. In those years were there any other grants appearing upon the Votes of the House of Commons in aid of county rates in Ireland, but those votes of 18,000 *l.* a year for those two years?—Not that I am aware of.

267. Then when you were directed to pay this in aid of county rates, did you enter it as against those grants of 18,000 *l.* a year?—We do not keep an account of grants. We paid that sum to the county treasurers of Ireland, charging it in our books as an issue from the vote for county rates.

268. *Chairman.*] Have any complaints come to your office from grand juries in Ireland, to the effect that they have not had paid to them from the Treasury the sums to which they are entitled?—We have nothing to do with those complaints; we are nothing more than bankers for the Treasury.

269. Mr. *Macartney.*] As you know the practice in Ireland, can you state what is the organ of communication between the counties and the Treasury?—I apprehend the Chief Secretary's Office. Applications for money go through the Chief Secretary's Office; applications for other expenses of prosecutions go to the Treasury; and upon those requisitions the Treasury give us an order to pay the money; we are mere bankers; we make the payment accordingly; but we did not issue that sum of 9,000 *l.* and those three sums of 18,000 *l.*

270. Mr. *Wilson.*] There is a vote for the costs of prosecutions?—It is under the general head of law charges, salaries of Crown solicitors, Crown witnesses, and fees to counsel, and such like.

271. Is no portion of that vote applied to costs of prosecutions?—Not that I am aware of. In the subsequent years since 1850 we have paid for the maintenance of convicts out of the prison and convict votes.

272. That is a separate vote?—That is a separate vote.

273. *Chairman.*] The "convicts" being only those sentenced to be transported, or sentenced to penal servitude?—I presume the term "convicts" means those two classes.

274. Mr. *Wilson.*] It does not lie within your duty to determine in any way the application of the money?—No; we know nothing of the details.

275. Your duty is simply to follow any instructions that come from the Treasury, and to make the payment as a banker would do?—Just so.

276. You therefore have neither any discretion nor, necessarily, any knowledge as to the purposes of the vote for which the money is taken, or the purposes to which it is applied, more than the treasury letter instructs you?—No, nothing more. We make an issue for criminal prosecutions, without knowing the detail of it.

277. Do you make payments under the head of criminal prosecutions?—Yes. There is a general vote every year.

278. Do you happen to know what those payments include?—No, I do not.

Mr. *Alexander Shekleton,* called in; and Examined.

Mr. *A. Shekleton.*

279. *Chairman.*] YOU are the Secretary of the Grand Jury of the county of Louth?—I am.

280. How long have you held that office?—14 years.

281. Your father held it before you?—Yes, for 28 years.

282. So that you are thoroughly conversant with the county accounts?—I am.

283. Can you inform us whether any sum of money has ever been paid in aid of the criminal prosecutions in the county of Louth?—No.

284. Are all the charges incurred in trials at assizes and the quarter sessions paid out of the county monies?—So far as the expenses of witnesses are concerned.

285. Have you with you any account of the amount of those since the year 1846?—I have all the county documents with me since 1837.

286. Could you tell us the sums of money which have been paid in prosecutions to witnesses and prosecutors in the county of Louth annually since the year 1846?—

Mr. *A. Shekleton.*

9 July 1858.

1846?—I can; they average, according to the amount of crime, from about 70 *l.* to 200 *l.* a year.

287. Has any memorial ever gone from the county of Louth to the Treasury, or to the office of the Chief Secretary for Ireland, with respect to those charges for prosecutions?—I think the matter was discussed on several occasions, as to the propriety of sending a memorial; but I am not exactly aware that any memorial was officially sent forward.

288. Do you recollect when this subject first came before the grand jury of the county of Louth?—It has been discussed for years.

289. But still you believe that no representation was ever made by the grand jury to the Chief Secretary's Office?—I think not.

290. As to the maintenance of prisoners, is it now paid out of the county cess, or is it paid by Government?—It is paid out of the county cess with the exception of convicts.

291. What do you hold to be "convicts" in your acceptation of the term?—All those leaving our prisons who are sentenced to penal servitude or transportation, as the case may be.

292. Then a certain sum of money is paid by the Government for the maintenance of those; and all other charges for the maintenance of prisoners convicted are paid from the county cess?—They are.

293. Mr. *Wilson.*] Do the public pay for any witnesses examined upon those prosecutions?—The county rates pay for them.

294. Is there anything repaid to you for that?—No.

295. Mr. *Macartney.*] Are there any other expenses of witnesses paid in the county of Louth, except in the cases of prisoners that are convicted upon the verdict of a jury?—There are.

296. To what extent?—Two of those are only just coming into operation at the present moment; one of them is under the Summary Jurisdiction Act, by which the magistrates of petty sessions have the power of paying the expenses of witnesses where the party pleads guilty; the magistrates give an order upon the treasurer, which he is bound to pay, for the expenses in that case.

297. Was that law in operation in the year 1846-47?—No.

298. Are there any others?—Yes; there are what are called expenses of apprehension and conveyance of prisoners, which were formerly paid by the constabulary, and repaid by the county; but under that Act there is also a power with the magistrates to pay the expenses of witnesses too. Since the passing of the Act, until about two years ago, they were always paid by the constabulary, and charged to the Crown; but the constabulary authorities in Dublin found that the county was legally liable, and the magistrates, after that, gave an order upon the county treasurer for this amount, which the Board of Superintendence refused to pay; the opinion of the law officers of the Crown was taken upon it, and it was found that the magistrates had a perfect right to make the order; the order was returned to the Board of Superintendence, and upon two cases which have just taken place in Louth there was a sum of about 16 *l.* of expenses.

299. Has this expense fallen upon the county rates, in addition to the usual expenses of witnesses at assizes and sessions, charged upon the order of the going judge of assize and the magistrates at quarter sessions?—Yes; and those charges are unlimited in amount.

300. Can you tell us what that amount of 16 *l.* is formed of?—The expense of bringing witnesses, I think, from Manchester, to appear at petty sessions before the magistrates.

301. In what case?—In a case of burglary.

302. Formerly the constabulary used to pay it, and it was repaid by the Crown, and not by the county?—So I believe.

303. You know of no instance of counties being called upon to pay it by the constabulary whilst they paid the expenses?—No, not till they declined to pay the expenses any further.

304. Mr. *Wilson.*] How are the preliminary expenses of the apprehension of prisoners paid?—By the county; those witnesses' expenses that I have just been speaking of are all preliminary expenses.

305. Previous to committal?—Yes.

Martis, 13° *die Julii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir Brooke Bridges.	Mr. Hamilton.
Sir Robert Ferguson.	Mr. Macartney.
Colonel French.	Mr. Miles.
Mr. Fortescue.	Mr. Wilson.

WILLIAM MILES, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Charles Long Crafer, Esq., called in; and Examined.

C. L. Crafer, Esq. 13 July 1858.

306. *Chairman.*] WHAT office do you fill at the Treasury?—One of the principal Clerks.

307. Are you at all employed in getting up the figures for the Estimates?—I was 10 years ago.

308. Were you so in the year 1846?—Yes; up to 1850, for 15 years.

309. Possibly you recollect that at the period when Sir Robert Peel brought forward his great financial plan, his intention was to take off from the county rates, both in England and in Ireland, certain charges which they had hitherto borne, and to place them upon the public revenue?—Yes; an estimate was laid before Parliament for that purpose, beginning in 1846.

310. Are you aware upon what information the estimate of 17,000 *l.* for Irish prosecutions was founded?—No, I am not. It was in consequence of a communication made to the Treasury, as I always understood, by Sir James Graham, by direction of Sir Robert Peel, not officially, but a mere intimation that an estimate must be laid before Parliament in 1846, in conformity with Sir Robert Peel's proposal.

311. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Sir James Graham was Home Secretary at that time?—Yes.

312. *Chairman.*] In Sir Robert Peel's speech, he estimated that the whole cost of prosecutions which would have to be paid from the Treasury in Ireland would be 17,000 *l.*; afterwards, in the Estimates for that year, he took it at 9,000 *l.* for the second half-year of 1846?—Yes.

313. Was that 9,000 *l.*, to your knowledge, paid to the Paymaster of Civil Services in Ireland?—The money was issued, but not in that year; it was issued subsequently, upon a representation from the Irish Government that the expenses which it was proposed to charge upon that grant, which had before been paid from the county rates in England, were in Ireland in a great measure paid through the Crown Solicitors; that having that machinery in Ireland, which we have not in this country, those expenses were to a great extent paid by them or through them.

314. On reference to the Estimates for 1846–47, you will find two charges included, one relative to witnesses in criminal prosecutions, and the other a sum of 9,000 *l.*, to go in aid of county rates; do you not find that they are not in the same estimate, but in different estimates?—They are in different estimates.

315. How do you account for that?—The charge of 18,000 *l.* a year in aid of expenses supposed to be paid out of county rates, was made by direction of the Home Secretary. A subsequent return from the Irish Government led to the conclusion that those sums, although paid out of county rates, were to a great extent paid in Ireland through the Crown solicitors.

316. Colonel *French.*] Have you a copy of the communication from the Irish Government?—I have an extract of a letter from the Chief Secretary of Ireland, in transmitting the Irish estimates for 1848-49, dated 8 January 1848: "From the sum voted last year for criminal prosecutions, 36,386 *l.* has been issued for the half-year ended the 30th September last, leaving only 34,873 *l.* for the usually much heavier expenses of the current half-year, a sum which, looking to the present state of the country, will be quite insufficient for the

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payment to the 31st March next. To provide for the deficiency, an increase must have been made to the estimate now forwarded; this, however, has been deferred until their Lordships shall decide how far the 18,000 *l.* included in Vote 7 may be made available for the expenses of prosecutions, witnesses, &c., in addition to the 48,000 *l.* in Vote 6. At present it would be hazardous to assert that even the addition of 18,000 *l.*, will entirely provide for the expenses to the close of the financial year. The state of the country unfortunately calls for the most vigorous proceedings for the detection of offenders and the suppression of crime."

317. Then evidently some part of the 9,000 *l.*, though taken in a different estimate, went to the repayment of what had been advanced upon a former item under the general head of "Criminal Prosecutions"?—Yes.

318. That was the first year. Then in the next year the sum of 18,000 *l.* was taken in the estimate in the same way for payment of costs of criminal prosecutions?—Yes.

319. Can you tell us whether any issue was made out of that vote of 18,000 *l.*; and if so, to meet what charge?—I believe that none of the payments were actually made till 1848. In the meantime, the accounts of the Crown solicitors in Ireland, and the payments made out of the grant for criminal prosecutions in Ireland, very far exceeded the former expenditure, and as I said just now, it having been ascertained that many of the charges contemplated as payable out of the county rates were really paid by the Crown solicitors in Ireland, the money was applied in aid of the grant for criminal prosecutions in Ireland, but that was not till 1848; the balances, I believe, remained unissued till then.

320. As grants were taken for one half-year for 9,000 *l.*, and for three whole years of 18,000 *l.*, can you tell us how much, out of that total amount of 63,000 *l.*, was paid in aid of the former grant for prosecutions?—No, I have not the means here of giving the exact sum; that can only be ascertained, I think, in Ireland.

321. But whatever payments took place out of the 63,000 *l.*, they were only payments in aid of the former grant?—Yes, as far as I have the means of ascertaining here.

322. Colonel *French.*] Was no portion of that money appropriated to expenses that occurred after the money was voted?—It is very difficult for me here to state the exact application at that time of those particular grants. It seems to have been intended that the money should be applied in aid of the general expenses of criminal prosecutions in Ireland; and I apprehend it would be almost impossible to identify the particular items to which that money was applied, on account of its going into the general fund in aid of the grant for what appears upon the face of the estimate as another service, but which really was not so.

323. Mr. *Macartney.*] You have stated, that it was agreed to apply those sums of 18,000 *l.* in aid of the grant for criminal prosecutions in Ireland, who were the parties who made that agreement?—It was between the Irish Government and the Treasury, I apprehend.

324. Have you any document showing the communication between the Irish Government and the Treasury subsequently to 1848 in relation to the application of those funds?—Here is a letter, dated, "Dublin Castle, 3 April 1849," which transmits the estimates for the following year, in which this paragraph appears: "From the vote of 71,991 *l.* for criminal prosecutions, there remains (including the advances to the Crown solicitors on account) only 34,450 *l.* for the expenses of the half-year to 31st March 1849, which, including the Spring Assizes, are usually much the heaviest; but if in addition to that sum, the 18,000 *l.* provided in Vote 7, for the expense of prosecutions at assizes be available, as was the case last year, it is hoped that the reduced vote of 63,991 *l.* proposed in the estimate, will be found sufficient to meet the expenses for the year ending 31st March 1850."

325. *Chairman.*] What was the estimate taken that year?—£. 63,991. was the amount of the estimate for that year.

326. Mr. *Macartney.*] In that sum of 63,991 *l.*, was the sum of 18,000 *l.* included?—No.

327. Was that granted besides in that year?—That was granted besides in that year.

328. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Can you explain what were the circumstances which led

led to the withdrawal of the annual grant of 18,000 *l.*?—In a note attached to the Estimate for criminal prosecutions, &c. in Ireland for 1850, it is stated: "The heavy additional expense incurred in the two last years for law charges in Ireland was defrayed from the sum of 18,000 *l.*, provided in the estimate for expenses formerly defrayed from county rates, No. 8, of this class. This sum was estimated by Sir Robert Peel in 1846 to be about the amount of expenses to be incurred in Ireland for the same services that had been formerly charged upon county rates in this country; but the greater part of those expenses are paid in Ireland through the Crown Solicitors, and there was no irregularity in the application of the money. No provision is made in that estimate for similar charges in Ireland in the present year; and it is anticipated that the sum of 37,420 *l.* included in this estimate will be sufficient to meet the whole charge."

329. Then in point of fact, the sums which were voted during those three years under Vote No. 8, were applied to make up the deficiency in the sums voted under Vote No. 6, the expenses during those years in consequence of the state of the country being considerably heavier than they were in the preceding year?—They were much heavier in those particular years. A further sum must have been taken on account of the vote for criminal prosecutions if that money had not been so applied.

330. Mr. *Macartney.*] As it appears that the sum of 18,000 *l.* a year was paid out of the county rates for the expenses of criminal prosecutions, do you not conceive that it was the intention of Sir Robert Peel to apply that grant of 18,000 *l.* towards the repayment of that charge?—Sir Robert Peel's intention clearly appears to have been that the counties in Ireland should be relieved from the same charges from which he was relieving the counties in England. But from all the information that was supplied to the Treasury, it would appear that many of those expenses were actually paid in Ireland through a different machinery, which does not exist in this country, namely, the Crown solicitors.

331. Colonel *French.*] Was the memorandum which you have read, a paper prepared by yourself for the information of the Lords of the Treasury?—It was prepared by myself; I have no note showing what it arose from; but I believe it to have been the result of a conversation between the Secretary for Ireland and the Secretary of the Treasury.

332. That memorandum states, for instance, that certain charges are paid by the Crown solicitors; how did you arrive at the knowledge of that fact; was it mere rumour?—No, it was not mere rumour. I have not with me here any papers that would show in what manner that was stated to the Treasury; but it must have been stated either by the Chief Secretary for Ireland or by one of the Crown Solicitors who was over here that year.

333. Mr. *Macartney.*] You mentioned that the previous communication was between the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary for Ireland at the time; do you recollect who was the Secretary for Ireland in the year 1850?—Sir William Somerville, I think.

334. Who was the Secretary of the Treasury?—The Estimate bears Mr. Hayter's signature.

335. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Was that memorandum which you have read, printed for Parliament?—No. These papers are never printed for Parliament; it is a sort of brief for the Secretary of the Treasury in moving the Estimates. Most of these papers were printed in 1848 for the Committee on Miscellaneous Expenditure.

336. Have you any memorandum which states the grounds for the cessation of the annual vote of 18,000 *l.*?—No; I have not any paper with me which shows that, beyond the note which has been already quoted.

337. Mr. *Wilson.*] Do you consider that these votes are applicable only to the year for which they are voted?—No, it has not been so considered. If there is a balance in hand, it is applied to the payments of the next year; it is difficult to get at the fact to which year a particular charge belongs, in a running expenditure of this description.

338. Colonel *French.*] You have stated that it is not the habit of the Treasury to appropriate the sums voted in one year to the particular expenses incurred during that year; is it not also the habit of the Treasury not to regard it as necessary to devote the sums voted for particular purposes to those particular purposes?—No; that would amount to a misapplication of the vote of Parliament.

C. L. Crafer, Esq.

13 July 1858.

339. Is not that done where there are unappropriated balances which are no called for?—No; unless in such a case as this, where the Treasury considered the vote of 18,000 *l.* as properly applicable to the other grant, as the same expenses that were supposed to be payable in England out of that grant were really paid in Ireland through a different channel.

340. In this particular case the Treasury took upon itself to decide that money voted for the diminution of county rates was applicable to criminal prosecutions?—Yes; applicable to the expenses paid by the Crown solicitors, under the head of "Criminal Prosecutions," which in this country would have been chargeable upon the counties. The words in the Estimates connected with the county rates are, "To defray the expense of prosecutions at Assizes and Quarter Sessions."

341. Is it not the fact here that sums of money voted for particular purposes by Parliament have been applied to other purposes, classed under the same head?—It could not be done except under such circumstances as those lr eady described, where money was issued to provide for expenses of a similar nature, which had been paid in Ireland through the Crown solicitors.

A Return from the Office for Audit of County Treasurers' Accounts in Ireland, showing the amount of sums presented by Grand Juries, and levied and paid for expenses of prosecutors and witnesses under Orders of Court at Assizes and Quarter Sessions in each year, from Spring Assizes 1856 to Spring Assizes 1858, both inclusive, pursuant to the Act 6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 116, s. 105, was delivered in, and the following summary thereof was read:—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
1846 - - - - -	16,444	11	4
1847 - - - - -	34,577	1	5
1848 - - - - -	37,394	2	8
1849 - - - - -	25,540	9	6
1850 - - - - -	18,631	9	6
1851 - - - - -	16,502	13	6
1852 - - - - -	13,009	–	2
1853 - - - - -	11,930	8	7
1854 - - - - -	10,319	19	4
1855 - - - - -	8,007	16	10
1856 - - - - -	8,866	13	9
1857 - - - - -	9,777	3	11
1858 - - - - -	3,288	15	8
TOTAL - - - £.	214,290	6	2

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APPENDIX.

Appendix, No. 1.

EXTRACT of a SPEECH made by Sir *Robert Peel* on the 27th day of January 1846, when proposing Alterations in the Commercial Policy of England, and the Abolition of the Corn Laws, recommending certain Grants to be made annually by Parliament in aid of County Rates in Great Britain and Ireland.

"I think that there is a fair claim on the part of the land for direct relief from some portions of the local burdens to which they are now subjected—that there should be taken off some of those burdens on the land. I cannot maintain this proposition as a direct compensation to the land; but when we are laying the foundation for a great social improvement, I say that we may take and place upon the public some of the charges that are now thrown upon the land. Some of these charges were brought under the notice of the House last year by the Hon. Member for Somersetshire (Mr. Miles). I was obliged, then, in opposing his proposition, to object that as long as the land was benefited by protection, I advised the agricultural interest not to claim relief from the charges—that the relief sought for was in itself comparatively small. But now, when it is determined to expose that interest to competition, then we have a right to look to these charges; and, when you have the power to do so, to relieve it to a certain extent; and in doing so, we have, at the same time, the power of conferring a great benefit upon the community, and for laying the foundation for a great improvement in the administration of the law. You have already taken off one-half the expense of maintaining prisoners in Great Britain and Ireland, who are under sentence for felony or misdemeanor; and I propose to relieve the counties of this charge altogether, and take from the Consolidated Fund the expense of the maintenance of such prisoners. I propose, in order that there should be a constant and vigilant check, that this and other similar charges shall be provided for by an annual vote. We estimate the sum of which these will relieve the counties at 64,000 *l.* per annum. And now, in respect to the expense of prosecutions in England, one half of that charge is already paid by the public Treasury. In Scotland, the charge is borne altogether by the Treasury, whilst in Ireland there still remains a portion of the charge which is borne by the land. We propose in the case of England, and in the case of Ireland, that that portion of the charge of the expense of prosecutions which is now borne by local rates, shall be borne altogether by the public Treasury. It is true the relief is not great; but I think the change is of importance, as it undoubtedly affords increased means of establishing some control over prosecutions; and you will be amply repaid, in a social point of view, by acquiring that increased control over any sum you may grant. In Scotland you have an admirable system of checking prosecutions by means of a public prosecutor. In Ireland, you apply a principle of the same kind, by requiring that in respect of all prosecutions borne by the public, there shall be the assent of a public officer of the Crown. Now, for the purpose of relief, and for the purpose of combining with relief, the means of introducing an improvement of your criminal law, I propose that the whole of the remainder of that charge shall be taken from the land, and be borne by the country. The amount will be, in Ireland, about 17,000*l.* and in England about 100,000 *l.* a year. Now, in the case of Ireland, if there be any part of the United Kingdom which is to suffer by the withdrawal of protection, I have always felt that that part of the United Kingdom is Ireland. Its capital and enterprise are almost exclusively directed to agriculture. And if, in the intended measures, with regard to the burdens on land, there should appear, at first sight, to be any undue favour shown towards Ireland, let us bear in mind that Ireland has not the means which other parts of the United Kingdom have of employing labour in manufacturing pursuits. But again I propose no relief from burdens which are not accompanied with some great social advantages. At present you have a great police force in Ireland. The expense of a portion of that force is borne by the land in Ireland; the expense of the remainder is borne by the public Treasury; and it certainly is a most anomalous system for one portion to be borne by the public Treasury, and the other portion by the land. I believe that it will be an immense advantage to place the police force directly under the control of the Executive—to prevent the possibility of all interference by local bodies; to make it as perfect a system as you can, excluding all power of local nomination or local interference, taking the whole control on the Executive Government; and in order that you may make that control complete, paying the expense out of the public Treasury. This was strongly recommended last year by that Commission over which the Earl of Devon presided

Expenses of maintaining convicts and convicted misdemeanants in county gaols.

Expense of criminal prosecutions at assizes and sessions.

Constabulary (Ireland).

Appendix, No. 1.

Medical relief in parishes.

presided, without any reference whatever to the law of protection; and Her Majesty's Government are disposed to recommend to the House that the whole charge for that rural police in Ireland shall be borne by the public Treasury. There is another charge borne by the land in this country, of which again, for local purposes, we propose that a share shall be borne by the Treasury. I allude to the medical relief in parishes. There is no part of the administration of the Poor Law which I think has given more dissatisfaction than the administration of medical relief. There seems to have been great unwillingness on the part of the guardians of the poor to afford relief, under the impression that their immediate concern was with the relief of absolute distress, and giving sustenance to those who were in danger of starvation. I am sorry to say that there have been frequently just grounds of complaint in respect to the administration of medical relief. The state of medical relief in Scotland occupied the attention of the House in the course of the last Session. And, for the purpose of meeting the views of those who object to the present system, and for the purpose of giving the Executive Government a greater degree of control over it, and gradually introducing an amended system, we propose to take one-half of the charge of the payment of medical officers upon the Treasury. Thus we shall be enabled to meet the objection of those who demur to the exercise of Government control and to the expense, by offering, on the part of the public, to contribute one-half. In that case I estimate that the amount of charge will be 100,000*l.* in England, and 15,000*l.* in Scotland. Ireland is under a separate law with respect to medical relief. I believe the whole subject requires re-consideration, and that it is likely to occupy the attention of both Houses of Parliament in the present Session. With regard to Scotland, there is a separate charge, which I think is for the prison of Perth. The amount is very small, but the 'principle' is what they object to. The charge of the prison at Pentonville is borne by the public Treasury, and Scotland therefore objects to bear the expense of the prison at Perth. Now it will be a satisfaction to this feeling, even if it be no great relief, if we apply the same rule which is applied to Pentonville and Parkhurst prisons, and other prisons not immediately used for local purposes, and relieve Scotland from this charge by taking it from the public Treasury. There is only one other item of expense which I propose to place on the public; and I think that in that I shall have the general acquiescence of the House. I believe that in every parish workhouse there is great ground for complaint, at least in many of them, of inadequate provision for purposes of education. In many workhouses there are no schools—in many others some person perfectly unfit to be intrusted with the education of youth is appointed as master or mistress, at a salary perhaps of 10*l.* Now, we propose in no way whatever to interfere with the right of appointment. We wish to avoid the possibility of raising any religious question. The right of appointment of a schoolmaster or schoolmistress shall remain with the guardians of the poor. But we are ready to take the expense of providing proper schoolmasters and schoolmistresses. We require qualification. We require the right of dismissal and the right of inspection; but we are ready at the public charge to provide a competent and decent salary for those who are to have the charge of the education of the poor. We propose that a grant of about 30,000*l.* a year shall be made for the purpose of providing competent salaries for schoolmasters and schoolmistresses for the children of the destitute in each Union, taking at least so much of control (without interfering with religion in any degree beyond what at present appears to be the case under the existing law) as to require that the party shall be competent—that there shall be some examination as to qualification, and some inspection of and control over the management of the school. Then again, with respect to the auditors of Unions, we propose that the charge for the salary of auditors shall be borne in like manner by the public Treasury, which will require about 15,000*l.* Now, observe, that in almost every case in which I propose any remission of the burden which falls on the land, I propose also the attainment of some great object connected with the public advantage. If this general scheme which I now propose shall meet with the approbation of the House, observe what it does for the great body of the people. At a very early period many of the restrictions which apply to the importation of food will be at once repealed. Instantly, in respect to clothing, there will be perfect liberty to purchase clothing in the cheapest market. With respect to medical attendance, we propose an arrangement which, I believe, will greatly improve the administration of the Poor Law. Before these propositions be rejected, therefore, I hope that both parties will well consider, even if their immediate views cannot be accomplished, yet, that both parties will well consider that instantly, with respect to many articles of food, there will be free importation. In respect to all there will be a perfectly free importation at an early period. In respect to all the main articles of clothing there will be free importation, with liberty to purchase wherever clothing can be obtained. And with respect to medical assistance, there will be considerable improvement on the existing practice. Well, these several propositions appear to me to be calculated to confer great benefits upon the country at large. Whether or no they are sufficient to induce both parties, those who entertain different views to support them, I cannot undertake to say. I wish, however, that the whole should be fairly considered; that on each side you will well reflect upon the consequences of the immediate rejection of this scheme. I ask for the expression of no opinion at this moment; but I do hope that after an interval of some days we shall approach it with that entire consideration which shall lead to a fruitful result, and in the same temper of mind with which, on both sides, you have listened to my observations to-night."

Union schoolmasters and mistresses.

Auditors of Unions.

Appendix, No. 2.

PAPER delivered in by Mr. *Seton*, 6 July 1858.

Appendix, No. 2.

Sir, Treasury Chambers, 11 January 1858.

THE accompanying Form of Return having been prepared under the directions of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, with a view to secure uniformity in the mode of rendering the Accounts of Criminal Prosecutions, and consequently to facilitate the examination and audit of them, as well as the preparation of the returns required by Parliament, their Lordships desire me to request that all accounts for any period subsequently to the 31st of December 1857, may be accompanied by a return in strict conformity with that which is annexed to this letter.

I am, &c.
(signed) *James Wilson.*

To the Treasurer of [*]

No.	Prisoner's Name.	Offence.	Expenses certified under Magistrate's Certificate.	Professional Allowances.		Court Fees.	Payments to Prosecutors and Witnesses for Loss of Time, &c.	Travelling Expenses.	Other Expenses not included under any of the preceding Heads.	TOTAL.
				Attorney's Charges and Allowances.	To Counsel and Clerk.	To Clerk of the Peace, Clerk of Indictments, and other Officers, prior and subsequent to Conviction.				
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
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23										
24										

N. B.—The vouchers in support of the payments should be annexed to the Order or Certificate to which they respectively relate, and bear corresponding numbers with those in the Account.

* Name of County, Liberty, or Borough.

Appendix, No. 2.

Sir, Treasury Chambers, 14 September 1857.

THE attention of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury having been drawn to the necessity of a stricter supervision being exercised over that large branch of the public expenditure which comprises the repayment, from an annual Grant of Parliament, of the expenses incurred in criminal prosecutions in England and Wales, their Lordships desire me to request that, at the termination of each sessions, as well as of each assize, the return hitherto made, after the 30th of June and the 31st of December in each year, of the expenses incurred in criminal prosecutions, may be forwarded to the Treasury with the least possible delay; and that such return may be accompanied by the certificate of the committing magistrate in each case, as well as by the orders upon you for the payment of the costs which have been incurred in all criminal cases, and by every voucher necessary to the elucidation of any claim which may be preferred to the repayment from the Grant of Parliament of the expenses of criminal prosecutions; in order not only to the correct amount of charge being made in such case according to the duly authorised scale in existence, but with a view to the prevention of items of police and apprehension charge being inserted, which, as not being strictly charges of criminal prosecution within the meaning of the statutes which regulate that description of expenditure, ought not to be defrayed from the Vote of Parliament, but ought to remain a charge upon local funds.

A copy of this circular has been forwarded to the several clerks of assize, clerks of the peace, and town clerks in England and Wales, for their information and guidance, and in order that you may be furnished after each assize and each session with every document which may be necessary to enable you to carry out their Lordships' view in this matter, as they will not feel justified in defraying henceforward from the Grant of Parliament any other charges than those which can be clearly shown to belong to that class which it was the intention of Parliament to take from the local rates and throw upon the general revenue of the country.

I am, &c.
(signed) *James Wilson.*

Appendix, No. 3.

PAPERS delivered in by Mr. *Hervey*, 6 July 1858.

NUMBER of PRISONERS under SENTENCE of PENAL SERVITUDE in County, City, and Town Gaols on 1st July 1858, as far as the Returns have been received.

GAOLS.	Males.	Females.
Antrim (Belfast)	—	—
Armagh	1	—
Carlow	1	1
Cavan	—	—
Clare (Ennis)	—	1
Cork:		
County	5	1
City	—	—
Donegal (Lifford)	—	—
Down (Downpatrick)	1*	—
Dublin County (Kilmainham)	—	—
Dublin City:		
Richmond Bridewell	5	—
Grange Gorman Penitentiary	—	—
Fermanagh (Enniskillen)	1	1
Galway:		
County	2	—
Town	—	—
Kerry (Tralee)	—	—
Kildare:		
Naas	—	—
Athy	1	—
Kilkenny:		
County	—	—
City	1	—
King's County (Tullamore)	1	1
Leitrim (Carrick-on-Shannon)	3	
Limerick:		
County	—	—
City	—	—
Londonderry	2	—
Longford	—	—
Louth:		
Dundalk	—	—
Drogheda	—	—
Mayo (Castlebar)	—	—
Meath (Trim)	—	—
Monaghan	—	—
Queen's County (Maryboro')	—	—
Roscommon	—	—
Sligo	1	1
Tipperary:		
Nenagh	—	—
Clonmel	—	—
Tyrone (Omagh)	—	—
Waterford:		
County	4	2
City	1	2
Westmeath (Mullingar)	—	—
Wexford	—	—
Wicklow	1	—
	31	10

* 1st of June, instead of 1st of July.

COST of MAINTENANCE for all PRISONERS Confined in the GAOLS of *Ireland* since 1850; the first year in which the Convict Prisons were separated from County Prisons' Convicts (*i. e.* sentenced to Transportation and Penal Servitude, and left in the County Gaols from want of Room in the Government Prisons); Prisoners Convicted by a Jury; Summary Convictions; Lunatics; and Untried.

	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.	1857.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Diet - - -	37,006 19 7	30,914 13 -½	24,838 1 4	22,871 - 6	25,197 - 8	20,334 18 4	15,867 4 6½	13,293 11 1
Fuel - - -	3,723 12 9	3,684 - -	3,284 6 7	3,967 12 7	4,821 3 3	4,361 9 8	4,162 11 3	3,672 6 10
Medicine - -	1,614 18 4	1,356 1 10	1,134 10 9	1,089 - 2	1,015 16 6	815 4 9	793 - 2	767 18 1
Hospital diet -	2,398 12 11	2,112 - 8	1,794 11 8	1,702 9 4	1,927 16 9	1,665 - -	1,480 16 3	1,336 2 11
Extra diet out of Hospital -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	489 10 10	430 15 8	455 16 7	471 12 11
Soap and candles	1,398 13 6	1,306 14 3	1,292 7 5	1,466 17 1	1,725 3 9	1,601 11 -	1,579 16 4	1,534 2 1
Straw - -	551 13 2	527 3 2	399 5 11	399 2 11	536 4 7	—	—	—
Male clothing -	3,104 2 11	2,527 13 2	1,880 19 3	1,914 7 11	1,847 9 6	1,446 16 4	1,325 2 9	1,306 1 11
Female clothing -	1,020 15 8	934 4 6	837 11 8	749 12 7	942 11 2	878 9 6	713 4 8	575 12 10
Furniture and bedding - -	2,187 10 3	1,885 18 6	1,867 4 -	1,847 2 9	1,518 7 2	1,526 8 6	1,879 - 6	2,012 19 2
£.	53,011 19 1	45,248 9 1	37,328 18 7	36,007 5 10	40,021 2 2	33,060 13 9	28,256 13 -½	24,970 7 10

	£. s. d.
1850 - - - - - - - - - - - -	53,011 19 1
1851 - - - - - - - - - - - -	45,248 9 1
1852 - - - - - - - - - - - -	37,328 18 7
1853 - - - - - - - - - - - -	36,007 5 10
1854 - - - - - - - - - - - -	40,021 2 2
1855 - - - - - - - - - - - -	33,060 13 9
1856 - - - - - - - - - - - -	28,256 13 -
1857 - - - - - - - - - - - -	24,970 7 10
£.	297,905 9 4

The total cost for maintenance of all Prisoners for eight years being nearly 300,000 *l.*, and those convicted by a jury, exclusive of those sentenced to transportation or penal servitude numbering about one-third of the whole. The cost of maintaining those convicted by a jury for the last eight years has amounted to about 100,000 *l.*, or at the rate of 12,500 *l.* a year, which for 12½ years would leave a sum of 156,250 *l.* due to Ireland; and in future, a payment at the rate of 5 *d.* per head per day would provide for such maintenance.

(signed) *Felton F. W. Hervey.*

ENGLAND.

	Average Cost per Head, 1856.
	£. s. d.
Buildings, repairs, furniture, &c. - - - - - - - -	8 5 3
Officers' salaries, allowances, and pensions - - - - -	10 9 2¾
Prisoners' clothing, diet, &c. - - - - - - -	10 6 8¼
TOTAL - - - - £.	29 1 2

REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

COUNTY RATES (IRELAND);

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
13 *July* 1858.

[*Price* 6 *d.*]

420.

Under 8 *oz.*

REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

DESTITUTION

(GWEEDORE AND CLOUGHANEELY);

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

APPENDIX, AND INDEX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
12 *July* 1858.

Jovis, 22° die Aprilis, 1858.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Destitution alleged to exist in the Gweedore and Cloughaneely District, in the County of Donegal.

Martis, 4° die Maii, 1858.

Committee nominated of—

Sir Edmund Hayes.	Sir William Somerville.
Mr. Philip Wykeham Martin.	Mr. Serjeant Deasy.
Mr. Dobbs.	Mr. Maguire.
Lord Naas.	Mr. Bagwell.
Sir Michael Shaw Stewart.	

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Lunæ, 7° die Junii, 1858.

Ordered, That Sir Michael Shaw Stewart be discharged from further attendance on the Committee; and that Sir John Yarde Buller be added thereto.

Lunæ, 12° die Julii, 1858.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to Report their Observations, together with the Minutes of Evidence taken before them, to the House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Destitution alleged to exist in the Gweedore and Cloughaneely District, in the County of Donegal, have considered the matter to them referred, and agreed to the following REPORT:

THAT the district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely is a wild and mountainous tract of country, inhabited, for the most part, by tenants holding small portions of land.

That there are among them many who are very needy, who, on any failure of their crops, are subject to more or less distress and poverty in consequence at one portion of the year; but at the present time it appears to Your Committee that destitution, such as is complained of in the Appeal of 8 January 1858, contained in the Appendix, did not, and does not exist, and that the general condition of the people is certainly not worse now than it has been for many years, nor does it appear to your Committee that there was, during the winter of 1857 and 1858, any increase of sickness in the district, or any increase in the number of applications for admission to the workhouse.

That this poverty among the people is not attributable to the landlords. No attempt has been made to drive the tenants from their holdings, or to take from them any lands over which they had any real rights; and it has been proved before Your Committee that the statement in the Appeal—"Last year brought a sad change on these warm-hearted peasants. All the landlords of these districts, save one, simultaneously deprived them of the mountains, giving them to Scotch and English graziers for sheep-walks, and at the same time doubled, trebled, and, in many instances quadrupled, the rents on the miserable patches left to them," is totally devoid of foundation.

Your Committee have also had under their consideration the following statements made in the Appeal: "Countrymen and Fellow-Christians,—In the wilds of Donegal, down in the bogs and glens of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, thousands upon thousands of human beings, made after the image and likeness of God, are perishing, or next to perishing, amid squalidness and misery, for want of food and clothing, far away from human aid and pity;" and. "They are now, at all events, in consequence of such treatment, perishing of hunger and nakedness, in their damp and comfortless cabins. But we will venture a little into detail: There are at this moment 800 families subsisting on sea-weed, crabs, cockles, or any other edible matter they can pick up along the sea-shore, or scrape off the rocks." In the opinion of Your Committee, those statements are not borne out by the evidence taken before them; and Your Committee have come to the conclusion that those representations are calculated to convey to the public a false and erroneous impression of the state of the people of this district.

It appears to Your Committee that an erroneous opinion exists in the minds of the people as to their rights over the mountains near which they reside, and that their not being well-advised on this point has led to the outrages which have been committed, and to the destruction of a large number of sheep, which brought upon the inhabitants of the district the sheep and police tax; a burthen which no doubt pressed heavily upon them, but it was paid readily in money, and no stock or produce was sold under distress for the purpose of paying those taxes.

Your Committee trust that this expression of their opinion will show to the people of the district that such conduct is not only contrary to the laws of God and man, but positively cruel to their helpless families, and fatal to their own best interests.

12 *July* 1858.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Jovis, 13° *die Maii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir William Somerville.	Sir M. Shaw Stewart.
Mr. Maguire.	Lord Naas.
Sir Edmund Hayes.	Serjeant Deasy.
Mr. Bagwell.	Mr. Dobbs.
Mr. Wykeham Martin.	

Mr. BAGWELL was called to the Chair.

The Committee deliberated on their course of proceeding.

[Adjourned till Tuesday, June 8th, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 8° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. BAGWELL, in the Chair.

Sir Edmund Hayes.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	Mr. Dobbs.
Lord Naas.	Mr. Wykeham Martin.
Serjeant Deasy.	

Mr. *Hugh M'Bride*, examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Jovis, 10° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. BAGWELL, in the Chair.

Mr. Dobbs.	Serjeant Deasy.
Sir E. Hayes.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	Mr. Wykeham Martin.
Lord Naas.	Sir W. Somerville.

Mr. *John Browne*, Mr. *James Williams*, and Rev. *John Doherty*, examined.

[Adjourned till Tomorrow, at Twelve o'clock.

Veneris, 11° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. BAGWELL, in the Chair.

Mr. Dobbs.	Serjeant Deasy.
Sir E. Hayes.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	Mr. Wykeham Martin.
Lord Naas.	Sir W. Somerville.

Rev. *John Doherty*, further examined.

Mr. *John O'Dougherty*, and Rev. *Daniel M'Gee*, examined.

[Adjourned till Monday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Lunæ, 14° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. BAGWELL, in the Chair.

Mr. Dobbs.	Serjeant Deasy.
Sir E. Hayes.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	Mr. Wykeham Martin.
Lord Naas.	Sir W. Somerville.

Mr. *Dennis Holland*, Mr. *Thomas M'Bride*, Mr. *Charles Gallagher*, and Mr. *James Ferry*, examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Jovis, 17° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. BAGWELL, in the Chair.

Mr. Dobbs.	Serjeant Deasy.
Sir E. Hayes.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	Mr. Wykeham Martin.
Lord Naas.	Sir W. Somerville.

Rev. *James M'Fadden*, and Rev. *James M'Groarty*, examined.

[Adjourned till Tomorrow, at Eleven o'clock.

Veneris, 18° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. BAGWELL, in the Chair.

Mr. Dobbs.	Serjeant Deasy.
Sir E. Hayes.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	Mr. Wykeham Martin.
Lord Naas.	Sir W. Somerville.

Mr. *Thomas Neilson Underwood*, Mr. *Owen Boyle*, Mr. *William Sharman Crawford*, and Mr. *James G. Crawford*, examined.

[Adjourned till Monday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Lunæ, 21° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. BAGWELL, in the Chair.

Mr. Dobbs.	Mr. Wykeham Martin.
Sir E. Hayes.	Sir W. Somerville.
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	Serjeant Deasy.
Mr. Maguire.	Lord Naas.

Mr. *Wybrandts Olphert*, examined.

[Adjourned till Tomorrow, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 22° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. BAGWELL, in the Chair.

Mr. Dobbs.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir E. Hayes.	Mr. Wykeham Martin.
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	Sir W. Somerville.
Serjeant Deasy.	Lord Naas.

Mr. *Wybrandts Olphert*, further examined.

Mr. *John Obins Woodhouse*, and Mr. *William Hunter*, examined.

[Adjourned till Tomorrow, at Twelve o'clock.

Mercurii, 23° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. BAGWELL, in the Chair.

Mr. Dobbs.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir E. Hayes.	Mr. Wykeham Martin.
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	Sir W. Somerville.
Serjeant Deasy.	Lord Naas.

Mr. *John Obins Woodhouse*, further examined.

Mr. *George Frazer Brady*, Mr. *Joseph Thompson*, and Lord *George Hill*, examined.

[Adjourned till Tomorrow, at Twelve o'clock.

Jovis, 24° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. BAGWELL, in the Chair.

Mr. Dobbs.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir E. Hayes.	Mr. Wykeham Martin.
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	Sir W. Somerville.
Serjeant Deasy.	Lord Naas.

Lord *George Hill*, further examined.

Mr. *William Robertson*, and Rev. *Alexander Brown Nixon*, examined.

[Adjourned till Tomorrow, at Twelve o'clock.

Veneris, 25° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. BAGWELL, in the Chair.

Sir E. Hayes.	Serjeant Deasy.
Sir J Yarde Buller.	Mr. Dobbs.
Mr. Maguire.	Sir W. Somerville.
Mr. Wykeham Martin.	Lord Naas.

Rev. *Alexander Brown Nixon*, further examined.

Rev. *Charles F. Stewart*, Dr. *Henry Mansell*, and Mr. *Charles H. Swiney*, examined.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Eleven o'clock.

Veneris, 2° *die Julii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. BAGWELL, in the Chair.

Mr. Dobbs.	Serjeant Deasy.
Sir E. Hayes.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	Mr. Wykeham Martin.
Lord Naas.	Sir W. Somerville.

Mr. *Daniel Cruice*, Mr. *William Young*, and Mr. *Richard Hamilton*, examined.
Rev. *John Doherty*, and Rev. *James M'Fadden*, further examined.

[Adjourned till Monday, at Two o'clock.

Lunæ, 5° *die Julii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. BAGWELL, in the Chair.

Mr. Dobbs.	Serjeant Deasy.
Sir E. Hayes.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	Mr. Wykeham Martin.
Lord Naas.	Sir W. Somerville.

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Veneris, 9° *die Julii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. BAGWELL, in the Chair.

Mr. Dobbs.	Serjeant Deasy.
Sir E. Hayes.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	Mr. Wykeham Martin.
Lord Naas.	Sir W. Somerville.

The Committee deliberated.

Draft Report, proposed by the Chairman read, 1° as follows:

"FROM the vast mass of conflicting evidence that has been tendered to your Committee during the course of a very protracted and patient investigation into the alleged destitution in Gweedore and Cloughaneely, they have found it very difficult to arrive at any very definite conclusion as to the causes or extent of the undoubted poverty of the district.

"That it appears to your Committee that those districts are now and always have been in a state of rude poverty, which seems to be the normal condition of mountain regions, and that this state of affairs has been rendered more acute by a partial failure of the potato crop last year, and by the enormous taxation consequent upon the reckless conduct of the people, by the wanton destruction of sheep, and by endeavouring to prevent Scotch shepherds from establishing themselves on the mountains, which had been reserved by arrangements entered into by the landlords some years ago.

"Your Committee trust that this expression of their opinion will show to the people of the district that such conduct is not only contrary to the laws of God and man, but positively cruel to their helpless families, and fatal to their own best interests, by preventing the influx of capital into that wild district.

"Although your Committee do not consider the paucity of numbers in the workhouse, which may be attributed amongst other causes to the large amount of charity distributed and collected by the Roman-catholic clergy, to be any test of poverty, yet still they cannot think that destitution can be said to exist whilst that estublishment is nearly empty.

"It has been shown to your Committee that the clohings and dwellings of the people are generally bad, and the latter exceedingly filthy; but they cannot arrive at the conclusion that the people are in a much worse state than in former years. But at the same time, the

Committee cannot conceal from themselves that any increase of population or further multiplication of small holdings is very undesirable; and they think that the landlords, in conjunction with the Poor-law authorities, should endeavour to establish some system of emigration to prevent the permanent increase of population in a region where the existence of human beings must always be one of deprivation and hardship, and the success of crops most precarious."

Draft Report, proposed by Serjeant Deasy, read 1° as follows:

"Your Committee have considered the subject referred to them, and have examined a great number of witnesses respecting the condition of the inhabitants of the district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely.

"It appears to your Committee that the district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely is a wild mountainous country, remote from any large town, at the extreme end of Donegal, and that the inhabitants of it have always been in poor circumstances.

"That last year there was in that district a partial failure of the potato crop.

"That the greater part of the district was, in the course of last year, subjected to heavy increased taxation for additional police, who were stationed there in consequence of outrages committed upon some Scotch shepherds who had recently come into the country, and of the malicious destruction of many of the sheep of which they were in charge, and for the amount presented by the grand jury as compensation for the sheep so destroyed.

"That such increased taxation, amounting to 2,000*l.*, was levied and paid, in addition to the rents and ordinary charges upon the people.

"That it appeared to your Committee that many of the people of that district were, previously to 1857, in the constant habit of using some species of seaweed as an article of food; and that very contradictory evidence had been given to your Committee as to the increased use of sea-weed by the people during the winter of 1857 and 1858; and also as to the diminution in quantity and deterioration in quality of the clothing and bedding of the people.

"That it appeared to your Committee that there was not, during the winter of 1857 and 1858, any increase of sickness in the district, or any increase in the number of applications for admission to the workhouse, or any other clear indication of great destitution existing among the people.

"That, with the exception of the diminution of these resources, caused by the increased taxation, and the failure of the potato crop, to which your Committee have referred, it did not appear to your Committee that there was, during the winter of 1857 and 1858, any material change in the condition of the people of Gweedore and Cloughaneely."

Draft Report, proposed by Sir J. Yarde Buller, read 1° as follows:

"1. That the district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely is a wild and mountainous tract of country, inhabited, for the most part, by tenants holding small portions of land.

"2. That there are among them many who are very needy, who, on any failure of their crops, are subject to more or less distress and poverty in consequence at one portion of the year; but at the present time it appears to your Committee that destitution, such as is complained of in the Appeal of 8 January 1858, contained in the Appendix, did not, and does not exist, and that the general condition of the people is certainly not worse now than it has been for many years.

"3. That this poverty among the people is not attributable to the management of the estates by the landlords, who appear to be anxious for the improvement and welfare of those dependent upon them, encouraging them, by the more convenient arrangement of their farms, to improve the land, and by the offer of rewards, to introduce more cleanliness and comfort into their dwellings, and no attempt has been made to drive them from their holdings, or to take from them any lands over which they had any real rights; and it has been proved before your Committee that the statement in the Appeal, to the effect 'that all the landlords of these districts, save one, simultaneously deprived them of the mountains, giving them to Scotch and English graziers for sheep-walks, and at the same time doubled, trebled, and, in many instances quadrupled, the rents on the miserable patches left to them,' is totally devoid of foundation.

"4. It appears to your Committee that an erroneous opinion exist in the minds of the people as to their rights over the mountains near which they reside, and that their not being well-advised on this point has led to the outrages which have been committed, and to the destruction of a large number of sheep, which brought upon the inhabitants of the district the sheep and police tax; a burthen which no doubt pressed heavily upon them, but it was paid readily in money, and no stock or produce was sold under distress for the purpose of paying those taxes.

"5. Your Committee cannot help expressing their opinion that the interference of some of the leading Roman-catholic clergy of the district between the landlords and their tenants,

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is productive of much misunderstanding and ill-will between them; and that attempts which have been made, on the part of the Roman-catholic clergy, to fix the amount of rent to be paid for certain lands, and their practice of exacting a fine from those who ventured to take land at a higher rate of rent, are deserving of the gravest censure."

Draft Report, proposed by Mr. Maguire, read 1° as follows:

"The districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, into the alleged destitution in which this Committee was appointed to inquire, are situate on the north-west coast of Ireland, and form a portion of a wild and bleak mountain region, the soil of which is generally of the very poorest quality, producing but scanty crops of oats and potatoes. These districts are thickly populated, and by a class of occupiers that, in almost every county in Ireland, would be denominated as cottiers, their holdings, as a rule, consisting of but a few acres of arable land, of a more or less inferior quality. The coast over which this population is spread, is of a rugged and inhospitable character, its shores being rarely indented with creeks or inlets in which the fisherman could find refuge for his frail bark from the storms that drive the waves of the Atlantic in fury against its rocky headlands; so that the nearness of the people to the sea, which in more favoured districts is a source of prosperity, and even of wealth, to the neighbouring population, is in these districts of comparatively small importance, save in so much as it affords its inhabitants the means of eking out a livelihood by the manufacture of kelp, and the obtainment of quantities of sea-weed, used either as an article of food, or as manure for the cultivation of their patches of land. To a population so circumstanced, poverty and want are of frequent occurrence; and it appears by the evidence, that before and since the years of famine, they have endured many and grievous privations from the pressure of sudden and wide-spread distress. For instance, distress was prevalent in the summer of the year 1855, owing to a partial failure of the potato in the previous year; and it has been proved, beyond doubt, that in the year 1855, two Catholic clergymen of the district, namely, the Rev. Hugh M'Fadden, P.P., and the Rev. John Doherty, P.P., felt it necessary to procure, on their own personal credit, a large quantity of meal, to the value of 1,500 *l*., which meal they distributed amongst the people, to their great advantage, inasmuch as it not only saved many from actual starvation, but enabled others to retain their little stock, with which they would otherwise have been obliged to part, in order to provide the necessaries of life.

"It appears from the evidence, that about the year 1855 certain landlords, in both districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, resumed their right over extensive mountain tracts on which their tenants had the privilege of grazing their cattle, and of which, in point of fact, they had practically the enjoyment for a considerable time previous to the present inquiry. According to some witnesses, well acquainted with the district, the privilege of free commonage had been enjoyed "from time immemorial." These tracts of mountain were let to Scotch and English sheep-farmers, who stocked them with foreign sheep. It has been complained that the resumption by the landlords of their right over these mountains, and the loss of them to those who had hitherto enjoyed their use, was attended with serious results to a population at no time prosperous, and therefore of all others the most liable to suffer from any diminution of their ordinary means of support. As a proof of the injurious consequences resulting from the loss of this free mountain commonage, it has been stated by all the witnesses who have maintained by their evidence the existence of distress, that the amount of stock in the possession of the people of Gweedore and Cloughaneely has been greatly diminished; and this general allegation has been fully substantiated by particulars with respect to whole townlands, as well as to individuals. It is true, this alleged diminution of stock, an important element of an agricultural people's prosperity, has been emphatically denied; but the weight of testimony manifestly preponderates in favour of the diminution, and against the denial of its existence. Other mountains, besides those let to the Scotch and English sheep-farmers, or retained in the immediate possession of their proprietors, had been taken from the people some years previously; and it has been confidently asserted, that in all cases where the privilege of free commonage has been abolished, or greatly restricted, consequences more or less injurious have followed. In some instances commonage has been left to, or provided for, the occupiers; but it is clear, from the evidence, that its advantages are materially neutralised by its distance from the dwellings of the tenants, by its restricted character, or by the inconvenience arising from the impossibility of avoiding trespass, and therefore guarding against fine and penalty, no sufficient boundaries having been provided, with the view of preventing the cattle of the tenantry from straying on the forbidden pasturage.

"It likewise appears that a general increase in the rents has been imposed by those proprietors who have either deprived their tenants of the privilege of commonage, or restricted them in its free enjoyment; and on this head the evidence of Mr. Robertson, agent to Lord George Hill, of Mr. Woodhouse, Mr. Olpherts, and the Rev. Mr. Nixon, is sufficiently decisive.

"That outrages have been committed on the property of the Scotch and English sheep-farmers cannot for a moment be questioned; nor can it be denied that the people are responsible to a certain extent for the destruction of the sheep. But it may be doubted if those upon whom the sheep-tax and police-tax fell with such crushing effect, were accountable for much of the guilt laid at their doors: for it may be fairly assumed that the wild

and bleak mountains of the poorest district of Donegal proved fatal to many of their strange occupants, and that many more were stolen or destroyed by people from other districts. The evidence of Mr. Cruise, resident magistrate, who admits it was his opinion that the sheep lost since the levying of the last sheep-tax were made away with by persons living out of the district, imparts considerable force to this reasonable supposition. It aiso appears that the loss of sheep by the people themselves has been a subject of constant and general complaint, both in Gweedore and Cloughaneely.

"Admitting to the fullest extent the absolute necessity of protecting property from outrage, and punishing with the utmost severity of the law those who wantonly transgress its well-defined rules, it still cannot be doubted that the imposition of this double tax on a whole district, not only involved in the same punishment the innocent with the guilty, but that it pressed with crushing severity on a population which at no time enjoyed the ordinary comforts belonging as of right to the tenant class in other localities, and which then suffered from a partial failure of the potato, a crop now of an eminently precarious character, and which, since the year 1846, when the disease first made its fatal appearance to a considerable extent, has never been entirely free from it, not merely in these poor mountain districts, but even in the richest lowlands of Ireland.

"The taxes so imposed were speedily collected, under the pressure of a force impossible of being resisted; but although it appears, from the evidence on one side, that some who paid these taxes, did so out of money of which they had been in possession for some time previously, it has been proved, on the other hand, that a considerable number had been compelled to dispose of stock and produce in order to meet the expected demand, and that others either borrowed from their friends and relatives in neighbouring parishes, or made journeys to remote districts, where their sons and daughters were in employment, to obtain from them the means of paying the collector. The pressure of this unusual burden may be estimated by the fact, that in the majority of cases, especially in Gweedore, the amount of the tax exceeded the valuation, or even the rent, of those off whose scanty possessions it was levied.

"That very serious distress was the necessary consequence of this heavy burden on a poor and struggling community, it would be unreasonable to doubt; and though several of the statements in the appeal emanating from the ten Catholic clergymen whose signatures are attached to that document are somewhat exaggerated and highly coloured, the ordinary and very natural result of strong feeling and lively sympathy, caused by witnessing individual cases of great suffering and distress, still the weight of evidence is conclusive as to certain broad and patent facts, which prove the existence of a state of things in those districts which it is to be hoped, for the sake of humanity, are altogether exceptional even in Ireland. Thus, it appears beyond dispute that there is a general absence of those substantial comforts which tenants ought to enjoy in any well-regulated state of society, or on any fairly-managed estate. As a general rule, happily open to individual exceptions, the condition of the houses of those tillers of the soil is one of squalid poverty; the beds of their inhabitants are of the worst, and oftentimes of the most revolting description, principally consisting of a mere handful of dirty straw, covered over with some ragged and filthy quilt, blanket, or rug; and their day-clothing is poor and mean, and in the case of women and children in too many instances not only of extreme scantiness, but, if witnesses of undoubted respectability are to be credited, not even sufficing for the purposes of decency. It would seem to have been a matter of common occurrence for whole families to absent themselves from mass on Sundays, in consequence of the wretched condition of their clothing, and thus omit the fulfilment of one of the most solemn obligations imposed upon members of their communion.

"As to the food of the bulk of the population, it may be said to consist of potatoes of an inferior quality, or Indian meal, largely assisted or eked out by sea-weed; and of this description of diet, spoken to by witnesses who had gone into the houses of the people while they were at their meals, one-half of the population do not appear to be able to partake more often than twice in the twenty-four hours. Much evidence has been given with respect to the use of sea-weed used as an article of food, and no small controversy has arisen as to the meaning of the term 'subsisted;' but while it is quite true that in no one case does it appear that sea-weed was the sole food of a human being within the district, it does appear to be conclusively established that it enters very largely into the diet of the entire population; that more of it was consumed during last year than during any previous year since the Year of Famine, and that, to employ the emphatic description given by the first witness, and corroborated by succeeding witnesses, it is used 'to prolong the food' of those whose necessities compel them to consume it.

"These main facts having been proved by witnesses who have had the best possible means of becoming acquainted with the actual condition and daily habits of this people, and have been also corroborated by intelligent and trustworthy strangers who have purposely visited the district, including, amongst others, Mr. Holland, Mr. Neilson Underwood, Mr. Sharman Crawford, and the son of the latter gentleman.

"A special feature in the social condition of the district is worthy of remark, inasmuch as it affords a gloomy prospect for the future where one of a hopeful character might well be desired; namely, the practice adopted by the proprietors of parcelling out small portions of land, sometimes partly reclaimed, but in most instances in a state of nature, into what

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are known by the term of 'new cuts,' and planting a miserable human being on one of those patches, upon which, in order to maintain a bare existence, he has to do everything for himself, without any aid whatever from the owner of the soil. This adventurous pioneer of civilization has, in the first place, to protect himself, and perhaps a wife and young family, from rain and storm that sweep the mountain sides in Donegal, by the construction of a rude dwelling, which is usually composed of mud or turf, to be replaced, as he improves in his worldly circumstances, by a more substantial structure of stone, with a roof of thatch; and he has to cultivate his narrow patch of ground to the best of his ability, though destitute of all the ordinary appliances of agricultural industry. In some instances he pays a rent from the moment of his occupation of this mis-called 'farm,' and in other cases he commences payment after a short period of possession, being, in all this work of hard and cheerless toil, wholly unassisted, save in special instances, by any aid whatever from his landlord. Nor is the healthful stimulus of a lease imparted to his desperate struggle with a cold and ungrateful soil; and, to render matters worse, a perpetual "notice to quit," served alike on occupier of old farm and 'new cut,' would seem to be of more or less general application throughout the districts in question. It would be an outrage on probability to suppose that the condition of this class of people could be other than miserable in the extreme, or that the imposition of an unusual burden, such as the taxes which have been levied upon the district generally, would be attended with other than the most painful and depressing consequences.

"While deprecating, as an undoubted evil, any general system of eleemosynary relief, inasmuch as it is calculated to divert the minds of those who are made its recipients from thoughts of patient industry, and induces an unwholesome dependence on others, it must be admitted that the relief administered by the Committee of Clergymen, although open to objection in its mode of distribution, especially in its want of due discrimination in particular cases, did seriously diminish the pressure of the enormous fiscal burden which fell upon the district; while to the distribution of day and night clothing is owing, to a very great degree, the improved appearance and more comfortable condition of the people, which has been remarked upon by those who visited their houses in the months of May and June of the present year. Without this seasonable assistance, it is only reasonable to believe that many who are now comfortably clad, and who enjoy the unaccustomed luxury of a clean bed, would be still covered with rags, or lying at night upon miserable lairs of straw, beneath a tattered and filthy rug.

"Forming the most moderate view of the condition and circumstances of the inhabitants of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, it is clear from the evidence at both sides, that it would require the utmost efforts of a vigilant, fostering, and liberal proprietary, to induce that resolute, continuous, and hopeful industry on the part of their tenants, which can alone overcome the ever-present difficulties that position and nature oppose to the cultivators of the soil, and enable them to obtain some few, at least, of those rude and homely comforts which the subjects of a great Sovereign and the citizens of a mighty Empire ought to enjoy."

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Draft Report proposed by Mr. Maguire be now read 2°, and considered paragraph by paragraph" (Mr. *Maguire*). Amendment proposed, to leave out the words "Mr. Maguire," and to insert the words, "Sir John Yarde Buller" (Sir *J. Yarde Buller*) instead thereof. Question put, "That the words 'Mr. Maguire,' stand part of the question."—The Committee divided:

Aye, 1.	Noes, 7.
Mr. Maguire.	Mr. Dobbs.
	Sir E. Hayes.
	Sir. J. Yarde Buller.
	Lord Naas.
	Serjeant Deasy.
	Mr. Wykeham Martin.
	Sir W. Somerville.

Question proposed, "That the words, 'Sir John Yarde Buller,' be there inserted." Amendment proposed to the said proposed amendment, by leaving out the words 'Sir John Yarde Buller,' and inserting the words 'Serjeant Deasy,' (Serjeant *Deasy*), instead thereof." Question put, "That the words 'Sir John Yarde Buller' stand part of the said proposed amendment."—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 5.	Noes, 3.
Mr. Dobbs.	Serjeant Deasy.
Sir E. Hayes.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	Sir W. Somerville.
Lord Naas.	
Mr. Wykeham Martin.	

Words "Sir John Yarde Buller" inserted.

Main question, as amended, "That the Draft Report proposed by Sir John Yarde Buller be now read 2°, and considered paragraph by paragraph," put, and agreed to.

First paragraph read, and agreed to.

Second paragraph read. Amendment proposed at the end thereof, to leave out the words "and that the general condition of the people is certainly not worse now than it has been for many years" (Serjeant *Deasy*). Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the paragraph."—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 6.	Noes, 2.
Mr. Dobbs.	Serjeant Deasy.
Sir E. Hayes.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	
Lord Naas.	
Mr. Wykeham Martin.	
Sir W. Somerville.	

Another amendment proposed at the end of the paragraph by adding the words, "save that their circumstances and resources have been impaired and diminished by the heavy burthen of the sheep and police tax, imposed in the district" (Mr. *Maguire*). Question put, "That those words be there added."—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 3.	Noes, 5.
Serjeant Deasy.	Mr. Dobbs.
Mr. Maguire.	Sir E. Hayes.
Sir W. Somerville.	Sir J. Yarde Buller.
	Lord Naas.
	Mr. Wykeham Martin.

Another amendment proposed at the end of the paragraph, by adding the words, "Nor does it appear to your Committee that there was during the winter of 1857 and 1858, any increase of sickness in the district, or any increase in the number of applications for admission to the workhouse" (Mr. *Wykeham Martin*). Question put, "That those words be there added."—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 7.	Noe, 1.
Mr. Dobbs.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir E. Hayes.	
Sir John Yarde Buller.	
Lord Naas.	
Serjeant Deasy.	
Mr. Wykeham Martin.	
Sir W. Somerville.	

Words added.

Question put, "That the paragraph, as amended, stand part of the proposed Report."—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 7.	Noe, 1.
Mr. Dobbs.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir E. Hayes.	
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	
Lord Naas.	
Serjeant Deasy.	
Mr. Wykeham Martin.	
Sir W. Somerville.	

Third paragraph read, and amended.

Amendment proposed at the end thereof by leaving out the words, "is totally devoid of foundation;" and adding the words, "decidedly exaggerated and inaccurate" (Mr. *Maguire*), instead thereof. Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the paragraph."—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 7.	Noe, 1.
Mr. Dobbs.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir E. Hayes.	
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	
Lord Naas.	
Serjeant Deasy.	
Mr. Wykeham Martin.	
Sir W. Somerville.	

Another amendment proposed at the end of the paragraph by adding the words "But that it has been proved to your Committee that at various times the privilege of grazing on the mountains has been, in some instances, diminished and restricted to the tenants; and that the rents, though not trebled or quadrupled, as stated in the Appeal, have been in many instances

instances raised" (Mr. *Maguire*). Question put, "That those words be there added."—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 3.	Noes, 5.
Serjeant Deasy.	Mr. Dobbs.
Mr. Maguire.	Sir E. Hayes.
Sir W. Somerville.	Sir J. Yarde Buller.
	Lord Naas.
	Mr. Wykeham Martin.

Question put, "That the paragraph, as amended, stand part of the proposed Report."—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 7.	Noe, 1.
Mr. Dobbs.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir E. Hayes.	
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	
Lord Naas.	
Serjeant Deasy.	
Mr. Wykeham Martin.	
Sir W. Somerville.	

Motion made, and Question proposed, after the third paragraph, to add the following paragraph:—"Your Committee have also had under their consideration the following statements in the appeal:

'Countrymen and fellow Christians—In the wilds of Donegal, down in the bogs and glens of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, thousands upon thousands of human beings, made after the image and likeness of God, are perishing, or next to perishing, amid squalidness and misery, for want of food and clothing, far away from human aid and pity.'—And 'They are now, at all events, in consequence of such treatment, perishing of hunger and nakedness, in their damp and comfortless cabins. But we will venture a little into detail: There are at this moment 800 families subsisting on seaweed, crabs, cockles, or any other edible matter they can pick up along the seashore, or scrape off the rocks.'—

In the opinion of your Committee those statements are not borne out by the evidence taken before them, and your Committee have come to the conclusion that those representations are calculated to convey to the public a false and erroneous impression of the state of the people of this district" (Lord *Naas*.) Question put, "That this paragraph be added to the proposed Report." The Committee divided:

Ayes, 7.	Noe, 1.
Mr. Dobbs.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir E. Hayes.	
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	
Lord Naas.	
Serjeant Deasy.	
Mr. Wykeham Martin.	
Sir W. Somerville.	

Fourth paragraph read, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, after the fourth paragraph, to add the following paragraph: "Your Committee trust that this expression of their opinion will show to the people of the district that such conduct is not only contrary to the laws of God and man, but positively cruel to their helpless families and fatal to their own best interests." (Mr. *Bagwell*). Question, "That this paragraph be added to the proposed Report," put, and agreed to.

Fifth paragraph read.

Whereupon motion made, and question, "That so much of the proposed Report as has been agreed to by the Committee, be the Report of the Committee to the House" (Sir *J. Yarde Buller*), put, and agreed to.

Ordered, To Report, together with the Minutes of Evidence, and Appendix.

EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

NAME of WITNESS.	PROFESSION or CONDITION.	From whence Summoned.	Number of Days Absent from Home under Orders of Committee.	Expenses of Journey to London and Back.	Allowance during Absence from Home.	TOTAL Expenses Allowed to Witness.
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Hugh M'Bride	Process server	Maheraclogher	11	4 10 –	5 10 –	10 – –
John Browne	Newspaper reporter	Londonderry	6	3 2 9	5 5 –	8 7 9
James Williams	Newspaper manager	Dublin	6	7 – –	6 – –	13 – –
John O'Dougherty	Agent to a merchant	Letterkenny	11	13 15 –	11 – –	24 15 –
Rev. D. M'Gee	Clergyman	Bunbeg	13	16 5 –	13 – –	29 5 –
Dennis Holland	Newspaper proprietor	Belfast	8	9 5 –	8 – –	17 5 –
Thomas M'Bride	Peasant	Maheralosk	9	4 6 –	3 7 6	7 13 6
Charles Gallagher	Peasant	Mahernagallen	9	4 6 –	3 7 6	7 13 6
James Ferry	Peasant	Arduns	9	4 6 –	3 7 6	7 13 6
Rev. J. Doherty	Clergyman	Gweedore	13	16 5 –	13 – –	29 5 –
Rev. J. M'Fadden	Clergyman	Falcarragh	17	16 5 –	17 – –	33 5 –
Rev. John M'Groarty	Clergyman	Cashel More	14	16 5 –	14 – –	30 5 –
Owen Boyle	Agent to a chemical company.	Falcarragh	10	9 13 8	7 10 –	17 3 8
James M'Cue	Farmer	Killult	10	9 13 8	7 10 –	17 3 8
Neilson Underwood	Student at law	Strabane	10	11 – –	10 – –	21 – –
W. Sharman Crawford	Gentleman	Belfast	3	2 – –	3 3 –	5 3 –
J. G. Crawford	Gentleman	Belfast	3	2 – –	3 3 –	5 3 –
William Hunter	Farmer	Bunbeg	10	5 5 –	10 – –	15 5 –
George Frazer Brady	Surgeon	Gweedore	10	10 – –	21 – –	31 – –
Joseph Thompson	Chief constable	Falcarragh	10	5 5 –	10 – –	15 5 –
Daniel Gallagher	Income-tax collector	Kildrum	10	6 10 –	7 10 –	14 – –
William Robertson	Farmer and agent	Bunbeg	12	6 16 –	12 – –	18 16 –
Rev. Chas. F. Stewart	Clergyman	Hornhead	9	10 – –	9 – –	19 – –
Isaac Clements	Sub-editor of paper	Londonderry	9	2 18 –	9 – –	11 18 –
Charles H. Swiney	Land surveyor	Ramelton	9	8 – –	18 18 –	26 18 –
Daniel Cruice	Resident magistrate	Donegal	13	20 – –	13 – –	33 – –
William Young	Head constable	Falcarragh	13	9 – –	13 – –	22 – –
Richard Hamilton	Poor-law inspector	Strabane	13	10 – –	13 – –	23 – –
					£.	514 3 7

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Martis, 8° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bagwell.	Sir Edmund Hayes.
Sir John Yarde Buller.	Mr. Maguire.
Mr. Serjeant Deasy.	Mr. Philip Wykeham Martin.
Mr. Dobbs.	Lord Naas.

JOHN BAGWELL, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. *Hugh M'Bride*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *H. M'Bride.*

8 June 1858.

1. Mr. *Maguire.*] WHERE do you come from?—From Gweedore, in the county Donegal.

2. Had you any employment?—Yes, I had; I was bailiff to Lord George Hill.

3. When?—Up to the Spring Assizes of 1857.

4. Were you also cess collector in the parish of Tullaghobegly?—Yes, up to that time.

5. Up to 1856 and 1857?—Yes.

6. Did you assist your father in the collection of cess in that parish for 17 years previously to 1856?—Yes, I did.

7. When did you resign your last appointment?—In March 1857.

8. Why did you do so?—Because I would not undertake to collect the police tax there that was struck upon the parish.

9. What was your reason for not wishing to collect the police tax?—The reason was, my conscience would not let me collect it, because I considered that the people were so poor that they could not pay the money.

10. In consequence of your refusal to collect the cess, and the resignation of your office, were you dismissed by Lord George Hill from your employment which you had under him?—I was.

11. You are intimately acquainted with the district, and in consequence of your knowledge of the people from your situation as cess collector and process server?—Yes.

12. You were process server for the court of quarter sessions, were you not?—Yes, I was.

13. Who was the chairman of the quarter sessions?—Mr. Jonathan Henny.

14. You are thoroughly acquainted with the district and with the people, are you not?—I am.

15. How many families are there in that parish?—Upwards of 850 in Tullaghobegly West.

16. There are, you say, 850 in the western part of that parish?—Yes.

17. Are you well acquainted with the people and with their circumstances?—I am.

18. Are they well off or badly off?—They are badly off.

19. Are they in great poverty?—They are.

20. Are they in greater poverty than they have been before?—They are in greater poverty at present than they were three years ago.

Mr. H. M'Bride.

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21. Were they better off three years ago than they have been since?—Yes.

22. Were they very bad towards the end of last year?—They were badly off since last November; and, even last harvest, they were obliged to sell the potatoes to pay the taxes, and they had to borrow money.

23. From whom did they borrow the money?—They borrowed it in all directions; they had to go to Lord Coningham's property to borrow it.

24. Did they borrow it from usurers, or from their neighbours?—They were so much pressed by the police tax that they were obliged to go in all directions to borrow it; and their families went away into Scotland earning money at the harvest, and they were obliged to pay it up till the boys came home from Scotland.

25. To meet what engagements had they to borrow the money?—To pay what is called the police tax.

26. It was to pay that that they borrowed the money wherever they could?—Yes, at that time.

27. You state that they were very hard pressed to meet that tax?—They were.

28. And a great deal of their poverty was consequent upon the difficulties in which they were placed?—Yes.

29. Could you tell what, in your opinion, is the principal cause of the distress of the people there?—The principal cause of it is the taking away the mountains from the people and raising the rents, and the heavy taxation; that is what I consider the principal causes of their distress.

30. You mean the taking away the mountain from the people who had the right of grazing on that mountain?—Yes.

31. For how long had they that right?—Till three or four years ago; till the Scotchmen went over there and the Englishmen, and took the mountains.

32. How long had they had the right of grazing upon those mountains?—They had the right of grazing upon those mountains from since ever I mind, or my father before me.

33. So far as you know they have always had the right of grazing upon those mountains?—Yes.

34. When was that right taken from them?—The last time was two or three years ago.

35. Then was the rent raised upon the land that was left to them?—It was.

36. Have they as large a stock of cattle at present as they had two or three years since?—They have not.

37. Is their stock of cattle greatly reduced?—It is.

38. With regard to the food of those people, so far as you know, are they well fed?—They are not.

39. Are they as well fed as they were before?—No, they are not.

40. Are you positive of that?—I am positive of it.

41. Can you give the Committee an idea what their food is; how many meals a day have they?—Two scanty meals, not sufficient to make one meal, is what they have at present; and for the last couple of years since the rents were risen, they have been reduced in their stock, and in every way, and they use now what is called dolamaun, a kind of sea-weed.

42. Is the use of that sea-weed confined to a few families, or is it common?—There has been more used of it for the last year than ever I mind.

43. Are you positive of that?—Yes, for I have seen them taking it away in bagfulls to use it as food.

44. Have you seen them use this in their houses?—I have.

45. You know as a positive fact, that a great many families have used that as an addition to the food that they had?—Yes.

46. What is the food that they had?—A few potatoes, and that stuff mixed.

47. Can you give me an idea of their beds; are they very bad?—Their beds are very bad; they lie alongside the fire upon temporary sticks that are supported by stones.

48. Why do they lie alongside the fire?—Because they have no standing beds, and they are not able to purchase any.

49. What is the bed made of; is it made of feathers?—No, of straw.

50. Is there such a bed to be met with as a feather bed?—No; they lie upon straw, and a sheet of cotton under them.

51. Have you seen their beds lately?—I have.

52. Were their beds worse last year than they were two or three years before, so far as you can remember?—Worse for the last year than they were three years ago.

53. From your experience of the people could the beds be worse than they were?—They could not until they were relieved lately.

54. I am not speaking of the times since they received relief, but before that?—They could not be worse than what they were.

55. Had they blankets?—They had not.

56. What had they to cover them?—They had some, what I call white cotton and old rags, and they threw their own wearing clothes over them.

57. How many have you known to lie in the same bed?—I have known nine to lie in the same bed close together.

58. You spoke of some of those beds being sometimes placed before the fire; was that for the benefit of the heat, or from any other cause?—For the benefit of the heat; to keep them warm at night.

59. You state that nine sleep in a bed frequently?—Yes.

60. That would complete the entire family?—Yes.

61. Wherever they can, is there not an attempt made to divide the sexes?—The sexes are divided; one part of them lie with their head one way and the other part of them lie with their head the other way.

62. The purposes of decency are preserved as much as possible?—They are.

63. The fathers and sons, where they can, sleep in one bed, do not they?—Yes.

64. If there are two beds in the house, the males sleep in one bed and the female members of the family in the other?—Yes; the fathers and the sons sleep in one bed and the females lie in the other.

65. With regard to the clothing of the people; was the clothing of the people of this district, of which you are now speaking, better some two or three years ago than it was last year?—It was.

66. Can you give the Committee some idea of the kind of clothing they had, speaking of the clothing of the women?—The clothing for the women was generally made of tammy, a kind of drugget made from the wool of the sheep.

67. Was that made in their own houses?—It was made in their own houses.

68. Was it the produce of the wool?—Yes.

69. Were they tolerably well clothed some two or three years since?—Far better than they are now.

70. Supposing there were two or three or four females in a family, had they all proper clothing last year, that is to say before the relief came?—They had only rags.

71. Did it ever happen that there was only one decent dress used by the females of the family, when any member of it went out?—Yes, very often.

72. Will you just tell the Committee what you know about it yourself; do you know the fact, that in any family, there was only one decent dress between all the female members of the family, and that that decenter dress was used by them when they went out?—Yes.

73. You stated that they had only rags last year?—That is all.

74. They were not all naked as a matter of course?—No.

75. You stated that all the women of the family had some kind of clothing?—Yes.

76. In case one of the women wanted to go out, supposing they went out day after day, would it not be the same dress that would be used by one one day, and by another on another day, and so on?—Yes; that is the fact.

77. Do you know of such a thing as that of your own knowledge?—They are better clothed now.

78. We are not now talking of the present time since they have received relief, but of last year before the relief came, and your answers must bear upon that, and upon that alone; do you say positively that the women of many families in this district were clothed with rags?—Yes.

79. And you state that in many instances they had only one decent dress, that is a dress suited for the purposes of decency amongst them?—They had not.

Mr. *H. M'Bride.*

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80. That you say distinctly?—That I say distinctly.

81. So far as you know, is their ordinary dress sufficient for the purposes of decency?—I do not understand the question.

82. Were they sufficiently clothed last year; was their dress sufficient for the purposes of decency?—It was not.

83. Was any part of the person exposed?—Plenty of the person was exposed, for their dresses did not come down but a very short way upon the arm, leaving the neck and breast bare, and only a little way below the knees.

84. You state that the clothing was so scanty that their persons were exposed very much?—They were.

85. Therefore it was not sufficient for decency?—No, it was not.

86. Was it often such clothing as a modest woman would wish to wear?—No, it was not such clothing as a modest woman would wish to wear.

87. Did you see those people frequently in their own houses?—I did.

88. And you saw them clad in this scanty attire?—I did.

89. And did it ever happen that any of those women were ashamed to come out in this insufficient clothing?—It did; of course they were.

90. Do you know that of your own knowledge?—I do.

91. Can you give the Committee a case of that kind; first mention any case you like; did you call upon those people at their houses at any time?—I did.

92. Did you require to see any of the members of the family?—I did.

93. Were the women ashamed to come out?—They were. I saw one widow, Ellen Gallagher, who was ashamed to come out.

94. Did she say so?—I cannot say that she said so; I considered from her delicacy that she was ashamed.

95. Was her person partly exposed?—It was exposed in the manner I have described already; and also in the case of Charles Doherty of the townland of Ardnagappery, I saw his daughters.

96. Did you see them so badly dressed that parts of their persons were exposed?—Yes; the parts of the person that I have already described; the breast, and the legs, and the arms.

97. Their clothing was not only insufficient, but it was not decent?—It was not decent.

98. Is it the general custom amongst the people to wear shoes or boots?—To wear shoes.

99. In the better times, did they wear shoes?—They did more than they wear them now. I am certain that they did about three years ago; they were better off then than they are now, the greater part of them.

100. Will you tell the Committee whether three or four years ago, when they were well off, they then had comfortable clothing?—More so than what they have now.

101. Do you know whether in the better times there were any persons who were ashamed to come out from want of proper clothing?—No, I do not.

102. Do you know any cases where women were ashamed or could not come out in consequence of the insufficient clothing that they had?—I do know of plenty.

103. You know the townland of Magheraclogher?—I do.

104. Do the answers which you gave a while ago refer to the western part of Tullaghobegly?—They did.

105. How many families are there in this townland of Magheraclogher?—There are 52 families in that townland.

106. I believe there are what are called 72 cows' grass in the townland?—Yes.

107. What was the former rent for the cow's grass?—Eleven shillings and fourpence.

108. What is it now?—£. 1.

109. When was 11 *s.* 4 *d.* the rent?—About three years ago.

110. You state that it is 1 *l.* now?—It is.

111. When did the change take place in the rent?—I think it was in November 1854.

112. Was that after the right of grazing upon the Tor Mountain was taken away from them, or was it about that time?—About that time.

113. The right of grazing was taken away from the people who had enjoyed it as long as you and your father could remember?—Yes.

114. The

114. The cow's grass was raised from 11*s.* 4*d.* to 1*l.*, was it not?—Yes.

115. Will you explain what that cow's grass is?—I could hardly explain it; the cow's grass is a strip of land now cut out by the surveyor on the spot.

116. Is it bog and mountain?—It is bog or mountain; most part of the parish is bog and mountain.

117. Is it a long narrow strip of land cut out of the mountain?—It is cut out of the old patches of land that the people had in former times; at the time that the land was divided they were not allowed anything of the new land for cow's grass.

118. It represents a strip of land of a certain size?—It does.

119. That strip of land which you say was charged 11*s.* 4*d.* before, is now charged 1*l.*?—Yes; that is what I distinctly say.

120. And that at or about the time that the land was raised from 11*s.* 4*d.* to 1*l.*, the right of grazing on the mountain was taken away also?—Yes, it was.

121. Are you quite clear upon that?—I am quite clear upon that, because the tenants were at liberty to put any beasts they had upon them, till the Scotchmen came and took it away from over their heads.

122. The top land of the town was cut out and made into new cuts, was it not?—It was.

123. Will you describe it to the Committee; supposing a new cut is made, what does the landlord do with it?—The landlord takes a tenant for it, and then the tenant goes and fences it for himself; the landlord goes first and lots it out, or his land steward does it; and there is no lease, and then the tenant comes and takes it, and he fences it himself, and completes it as well as he can.

124. Does the landlord build the house?—No; the tenant does it himself.

125. Is any improvement upon it made by the landlord?—All the improvement made is by the tenant only; but there was some encouragement given as to small premiums; just a couple of years ago there was a grant made by a society in London.

126. Everything done upon it is done by the tenant himself, is it not?—Everything done upon it is done by the tenant; the house built, and all.

127. Is that what you call a new cut?—That is what I call a new cut.

128. Do people pay anything for the grazing of the Tor Mountain?—No; I never knew them to pay for it.

129. Did they not pay some small sum for it?—I never knew them to pay for it, except when one or two had a piece; one man of the name of Sweeney.

130. As a general rule, had the people the right of grazing upon it, or was it given by the landlords?—The right was given from old times, and it was taken from them lately.

131. You say that three years ago it was taken away from them; why was it taken away from them?—It was set to Scotchmen and Englishmen.

132. Was it entirely taken away from the people?—Yes.

133. Had the people a larger number of cattle than they have now?—They had.

134. Say three years ago, what number of cattle had the people then in this townland of Magheraclogher?—They had about 98 head of cattle in Magheraclogher.

135. Are you certain of that?—I am certain of that; I cannot be any certainer than to inquire into it.

136. From inquiries which you made, did you learn that they had 98 head of cattle then?—Yes, I did.

137. How did you make the inquiry?—By asking people particularly.

138. When did you ask them?—I asked them last week; and I know it from my own knowledge through the place that the cattle were more numerous than they are now a great deal, in every town in the whole parish.

139. You had an intimate knowledge of the people and what they had?—I had an intimate knowledge of the people, and what they had, because I was regularly through them at all seasons of the year.

140. And you saw considerably less cattle lately than you did before?—I did.

141. What number of head of cattle had they at the end of last time they were in distress?—They had 39; that is including little stirks and calves.

142. Did the 98 include calves?—It includes stirks or heifers and calves, but not many calves; there are a few calves in that number.

Mr. *H. M'Bride.*

8 June 1858.

143. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] How many?—I would say not many more than three or four calves.

144. Mr. *Maguire.*] At any rate they had not half the number they had three years since?—They had not; I am positive of it.

145. Are you positive of it from your own personal knowledge, as well as from inquiries?—I am positive of it; and they were obliged to sell to support themselves, and pay the taxes and rents.

146. Had they also flocks of sheep?—They had.

147. Can you give the Committee any idea how many sheep they had three years ago?—They had about 300 or 400 three or four years ago.

148. Have they more than 60 at the present moment?—About 60.

149. Would you say they have 100 at present?—I would not say that they have.

150. Have you any account in that book, which you hold in your hand, of the number of sheep that they have at this moment?—I have an account here, and I find that they have 90 head of sheep now.

151. Mr. *P. W. Martin.*] How many had they before?—Three hundred and thirty.

152. They had between 300 and 400 before; but they have not more than 90 now?—Yes.

153. Are you positive as to that?—I am positive.

154. Did you observe from your own inspection that there were a great many sheep less now than before?—I did.

155. It is not from inquiries; but you know it from your own knowledge?—I know it from my experience in the country.

156. From going among the people, and from seeing what they had before, and seeing what they have now?—Yes.

157. If you never had heard from any persons how many sheep they had before, or how many they have now, would you be able to say of your own knowledge that they have not more than 100 sheep at the present moment?—I would.

158. What is the cause of this decrease in the cattle and in the sheep, as now appears; have the higher rents anything to do with it?—They have, and the taxes, and the taking away of the mountain grazing.

159. That mountain grazing was of course very valuable to the poor?—It was.

160. It reared their cattle?—Yes, and their sheep; they used to send their sheep in the summer time, and keep them on the mountains; and when the crop was off the ground, they would house them themselves; they would go with their lambs in the summer season, and graze upon the mountain.

161. Were they obliged to sell their cattle and sheep last year to meet the rents and taxes?—They were.

162. Do you know what the ordinary county cess on this parish was in the spring of 1857?—I know the ordinary cess on the different townlands.

163. On Magheraclogher, in the spring of 1857, how much was the county cess?—I have it here; in the spring of 1857 it was 3 *l.* 3 *s.* 1 *d.*

164. That you are certain of?—That I am certain of.

165. Can you say what the cess was in the summer of the same year?—I can; it was 78 *l.* 1 *s.* 6 *d.*

166. Did that include the police tax?—Not including the police tax.

167. Did not the increase of that taxation from 3 *l.* 3 *s.* 1 *d.* to 78 *l.* 1 *s.* 6 *d.* cause much distress?—It did of course.

168. To meet that tax, the people were obliged, were they not, to get rid of their cattle and sheep and their crops?—They were.

169. Besides having to meet the high rent?—Yes; they had to dispose of them.

170. Am I right in saying, that the people's means of living were diminished and that their burdens were increased?—Yes, that is the fact; their means of living were taken away from them.

171. And their burdens have been increased in the shape of high rent and high taxation?—Yes, they have to be sure.

172. Do you know the people of that townland?—I do.

173. Do you know their names?—I do.

174. Do you know the number of their families?—Yes.

175. Do you know the stock they had before and the stock they have now?—I do.

176. Do you know their present rents and their former rents?—I do.

177. Do you know the taxes they paid before, as well as the taxes they pay now?—I know that they paid 800 *l.* on the police tax.

178. Do you know a man of the name of Shame Mulligan of this same townland?—I do.

179. Is not that man one of the best off in the place?—He is one of the best off in Magheraclogher.

180. How many has he in family?—He has eight in family.

181. Could you describe to the Committee that man's circumstances; in what state did you find his family; or do you know what it was last year?—I know he has eight in family, and he has three cows.

182. He is the best off?—He is the best off that I know in the townland.

183. How many cows has he?—He has three cows and two stirks; he is one of the best off.

184. Are his family well dressed?—They are not the worst dressed in the town.

185. Would you say that they were well dressed?—No.

186. Were you ever in the house?—I was.

187. Had this man, who was the best off in the townland, a feather-bed?—No, he has no feather-bed.

188. Had he anything of decent furniture?—He had not.

189. Were the family well dressed?—They were not; they were dressed just half middling.

190. You say that they were the best circumstanced people in the district?—Yes; I consider him to be one of the best circumstanced in the district.

191. Do you know anything of Neal Doherty?—I do.

192. Was he well off?—He was better off in former times than what he was last year.

193. Will you mention the names of some of those people in that townland?—Shame Mulligan; he had four cows two or three years ago; he has none at all now.

194. Are that man's family well off?—No, they are not.

195. In what condition are they?—They are in a very poor condition.

196. Have they good food?—They have not.

197. Do they use sea-weed?—They do.

198. Are you positive of that?—I am positive of it.

199. How do you know it?—I have seen them use it.

200. What did they use it with?—They used it with potatoes while they lasted, but the potatoes are now done away with.

201. At the end of last year, do you know that those people used sea-weed as a common article of food?—They did.

202. With the potato?—Yes.

203. If the potato failed them, would they have had anything to eat save the sea-weed?—They would eat it with some Indian bread.

204. Had they sufficient Indian meal bread?—They had not.

205. Had they enough either of Indian meal bread or potatoes, so that they could do without this sea-weed?—They had not.

206. Do you know that this sea-weed was used for the purpose of making out the meal?—I do know it as a positive fact.

207. Just look down the list that you have in your hand, and tell me the names of some other people who were compelled to use sea-weed with that view?—Widow Unity M'Bride was one.

208. What can you tell the Committee about her?—I can state that she was obliged to use the sea-weed.

209. Did you see her use it yourself?—I did see her eating it and her family too.

210. Did she tell you why she used it?—I know why she used it, because I know that it was in order to prolong the food; that they used it because they would eat far less food when they used this sea-weed than they would without it.

211. In order to make up the amount of food necessary to support life, they were compelled to use this sea-weed?—Just so.

212. Do you assert that as a positive fact?—I assert it as a positive fact.

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213. Upon this townland do you know that many persons during the last two or three years were compelled to use it?—I do.

214. Can you tell the Committee the names of some of those persons who you know were obliged to use it?—Cornelius Gallagher.

215. Has that man any family?—He has.

216. How many children has he?—Seven.

217. Do you know that they used sea-weed?—I do.

218. Did you see them?—I did.

219. Had they sufficient food without that sea-weed?—They had not.

220. Are you positive of that?—I am positive of it.

221. Did you see it used at their meals?—I did.

222. Did you see this more than once?—I did, 20 times.

223. How many times did you see them compelled to eat the sea-weed?—I have seen them often enough, oftener than I took notice of; several times.

224. Will you tell the Committee the names of any other persons on that list whom you have seen using the sea-weed?—Rogher Gallagher.

225. What family has he?—There are 13 in family.

226. Was that family worse or better off last year than it was before?—They were worse off last year than the year before.

227. You say that there are 13 in family?—There are.

228. Did you see them use the sea-weed?—I did.

229. How many times?—Several times; I cannot say the number of times.

230. Did you see it three or four times?—I did.

231. With regard to Neal Doherty, did you see him use the sea-weed, and his family?—I did. I have seen another man of the name of Shame Mulligan, use it.

232. Dominic M'Bride. Did you see his family use it?—He is greatly reduced.

233. Has he a family?—He has a family.

234. Did you see them use the sea-weed?—I did.

235. Did you see Edward Sweeney use it?—I did.

236. Did you see Rogher Gallagher use the sea-weed?—I did.

237. You saw Unity M'Bride use it, did you not?—Yes.

238. James Roarty; did you see him use it?—I did.

239. Did you see James Sweeney use it?—Yes.

240. Paddy O'Donnell; did you see him use it?—Yes.

241. Connell Peoples; do you know him?—Yes.

242. You saw his family use the sea-weed, did you?—I did.

243. Are you positive of that?—I am positive of it.

244. John Gallagher and John Doherty; did you see them use it?—Yes, I did.

245. Did you see Biddy Doherty use it?—I did.

246. Owen M'Bride; did you see him use it?—I did.

247. Did you see Toal Coll use it?—Yes.

248. Susan Gallagher and Biddy Boyle; did you see them use it?—I did.

249. Did you see Biddy Boyle use it, and her family?—Yes.

250. Did you see John Doherty use it?—I did.

251. I have read to you 20 names; do you say to the Committee that the families of every one of those people use sea-weed in order to prolong their food?—I do.

252. Do you know the names of the remainder of the persons in the townland?—I do.

253. And you could refer to them if necessary, could you not?—I could.

254. I suppose there are some of those people who were always poor?—They were.

255. But with regard to the persons whose names have been mentioned to you, do you state that all those people, or the greater number of them, are much worse off now than they were three years ago?—I do.

256. Do you know the townland of Middletown, or Ardnagappery?—I do.

257. Whose property is it?—Lord George Hill's.

258. How many families are there in that townland?—Fifty.

259. How many cows' grass had they?—Sixty.

260. What was the former rent?—11 *s.* 4 *d.*

261. It was 34 *l.* in all?—It was.

262. What is the new rent?—£. 1, that is 60 *l.* in all.

263. Had

263. Had the people of this townland the mountain grazing taken from them?—They had, in the same way as Magheraclogher had.

264. What was the county cess of this town land in the spring of 1857?—£. 2. 10 *s.* 3 *d.*

265. What was it in the summer of the same year?—£. 62. 3 *s.* 3 *d.*, not including the police tax.

266. Did that include the sheep tax?—It included the sheep tax, but not the police tax.

267. Were the people obliged to sell their stock and their crop to meet that increased rent and taxation?—They were.

268. From your own knowledge of that locality, is the stock of the townland considerably decreased?—It is.

269. Can you say that of your own personal knowledge?—I can.

270. Had those people bog land as well as mountain grazing?—They had.

271. Is that bog land still belonging to them, or was it taken away from them?—It was taken away from them.

272. For what purpose?—It was made into cuts

273. Was it made into new holdings for new tenants?—Yes.

274. Is it not the case that there is no rent charged for those new cuts until the land produces something?—It is so.

275. It is given for a time to the new tenant without rent?—Yes, it is.

276. The tenant has to build a house and to drain the land, and to cultivate it; is that so?—He has.

277. After that, is there a rent put on?—There is.

278. At what time after?—I am not aware.

279. Supposing a man is put this year on one of those new cuts, and he has to build a house and to make a farm out of the place, generally in what time is he charged rent?—I believe it is in five or six years; I am not positive.

280. Does he get any assistance either to build or to cultivate the land for those years in which he is not charged rent?—He does not; he gets no assistance.

281. Are the present farms which are now let to the people, after the taking away of the bog and mountain grazing, sufficient to support them, in your opinion?—They are not.

282. Will you just describe the size of one of those farms; are they long strips of land?—They are strips of land stretching the width of a quarter of a mile in some instances, and not a quarter of a mile in other instances.

283. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Can you tell the number of acres?—I cannot.

284. Mr. *Maguire.*] What was the width of a farm of, say nearly a quarter of a mile long?—In some cases they are not more than seven yards broad.

285. Would it be much wider than this room?—Some of them are not above half the width of this room.

286. Do you describe to the Committee the size of some of those farms as being of considerable length, but in some instances not wider than this room, and one-half the width of this room in others?—I do say that there are some of the strips there that are not more than seven or eight feet wide.

287. Which do you say, seven or eight yards or seven or eight feet?—I say, a strip of land is 2½ yards wide, I could leap over it myself.

288. Were those farms marked out in this way four or five years since?—They were marked out not three months ago, some of them.

289. But say, five or six years ago, or three years ago, were there farms of that shape and dimensions on this townland?—There were.

290. But then those people had the right of grazing on the mountain, had they not?—They had.

291. And though the farm was small, were they able to support themselves in consequence of having the mountain pasturage?—They were able to support themselves by means of the families going to the Laggan and to Scotland, and earning some money, and they had more cattle and sheep, and they had the use of the mountain.

292. Supposing a man had a very small farm, and a number of sheep and cattle, had he an unlimited right to the mountain?—He could have any number that he chose.

293. So that the cutting off of the mountain grazing in your opinion must have done them great injury?—It did.

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294. Does it not now throw those families for support on those long narrow strips of land, as well as upon the remuneration given to some members of the family going to Scotland and working there?—Yes.

295. All that they had to support themselves last year, as I understand you, was the amount that they were able to gain in Scotland by some members of the family working there, as well as what they could get out of this narrow strip of land?—Yes.

296. On former occasions they had bog land besides, had they not?—Yes.

297. And also they had the mountain pasturage?—Yes.

298. Are the Committee also to understand you to say that no matter how many cows or sheep a man had, still he had the mountain open to him?—He had.

299. Do you know any instances where the houses are obliged to be built lengthwise?—I do.

300. Is that because the strips are so narrow?—It is.

301. Have they any fences?—They have no fences.

302. Is this the only land that they have for grazing their cattle?—That is all that they have for themselves and their cattle to live upon.

303. That is the only land that they have for grazing their cattle and raising their crops?—Yes.

304. And they had the pasturage before, had they not?—They had.

305. What is the principal food of the people of this townland of which you have been speaking?—The same food as in the townland of Magheraclogher.

306. What is that food?—Dolamaun and crabs.

307. What kind of potatoes do they use?—They are a bad scantling of potatoes.

308. Are they dry?—No, they are not. They are a soft kind of potato; what we call "lumpers" generally.

309. Is that a moist, watery potato?—Very watery.

310. Would you say that sea-weed and bad potatoes are a good diet for human beings?—I would not.

311. Is that their food in the winter and spring?—It is their food in the winter and spring.

312. What is their food in the summer?—In the summer they can get some Indian meal, and they go about the shores, and gather some cockles and crabs, and dulse, and what I call the scrape of the rocks, whelks, and whatever they can pick up.

313. From your own observation and knowledge, can you state to the Committee that there was more sea-weed consumed last year by the people than there was for many winters before?—I can.

314. Are you positive of that?—I am positive of it.

315. I will read to you some of the names of those people, and then you can tell the Committee whether any of them use sea-weed, or not: Michael M'Bride; does he use it?—Yes, he uses it.

316. Has he many in family?—Four, I believe, he has in family.

317. James Gallagher, has he a family?—He has three.

318. Do they use the sea-weed?—They do.

319. Do you know that?—I do.

320. Do you know Paddy M'Cafferty?—Yes.

321. Has he a family?—Yes.

322. Do they use the sea-weed?—They do.

323. Hugh Owen M'Bride, do you know him?—Yes.

324. Has he a family?—Yes.

325. Did they use the sea-weed to your knowledge?—Yes.

326. Did you see them?—I did.

327. Has Fanny Boyle any family?—Yes; she has two in family.

328. Have you seen sea-weed eaten in her house?—Yes.

329. John O'Donnell, has he a family?—Yes, and he uses the sea-weed.

330. Nelly Gallagher, does she use it?—Yes.

331. Biddy M'Bride, does she use it?—Yes.

332. I believe there were some cattle seized on her place, were there not?—Yes, by Head Constable Young, on a Sunday.

333. John Gallagher, has he a family, and does he use the sea-weed?—Yes, he has a family, and he uses it.

334. Bryan M'Bride, I believe, is one of the best off in the town?—Yes.

335. Is his stock much reduced?—The stock is reduced, because they have had to pay a great deal of taxes.

336. Charles M'Bride, is he reduced?—He is greatly reduced.

337. Did his family eat the sea-weed?—Yes.

338. Hugh Gallagher, did his family eat the sea-weed?—Yes, the same.

339. Did Hugh O'Donnell also eat the sea-weed?—Yes.

340. Billy Bonar, did his family use the sea-weed?—Yes.

341. Sarah Doogan, did she use it?—Yes.

342. And the same with regard to John Duffy?—Yes.

343. And also with regard to John Harkin?—Yes.

344. Can you say from your own knowledge that those people have been obliged to eat sea-weed in order, as you say, to prolong their food?—Yes, I can say so.

345. Did you see them do so several times?—I did; because I live in that townland myself, and I have a right to know.

346. Is the condition of those people as good as it was some years ago?—It is not.

347. Has it been reduced?—It has been reduced.

348. Do they suffer from having the mountain land taken from them?—Yes.

349. And from the doubling of the rent?—Yes.

350. And from the taxes?—Yes.

351. What was the first cause of the poverty of those people?—The first cause was losing the mountain.

352. Was another cause the raising of the rent?—Another cause was the raising of the rent, and then came the taxation.

353. That gave them the crushing blow, did it not?—It did.

354. Will you describe to the Committee, from your own knowledge, the state of the beds and bed clothing in that townland in the autumn of last year?—I say that it was bad; I could not say that they had any bed clothes at all; they were lying upon rags, upon straw, and sticks of timber in some of their cabins supported by stones and pieces of stick into the walls of the houses; in other places they were obliged to lie before the fire on a wisp of straw, with what I call a small sheet of gray calico under them.

355. Did you see a decent bed in the whole townland?—I did not.

356. You did not see one upon which you would lie yourself?—No.

357. Is the bedding generally composed of straw and rags?—Yes, of straw, and rags over it.

358. Is that the general description of beds in the townland?—That is the general description of the beds in that townland. There are a few persons that have better beds than others, such as Bryan M'Bride.

359. That is the general description of them?—That is the general description of the beds.

360. The majority of the people there, you state, lie upon wisps of straw, covered with a single rag?—Yes, that is my description of the beds.

361. Do you know that the bedding of the people and the clothing of the people were better, three years ago, than they were last year?—I do.

362. Do you know that as a positive fact?—I know, as a positive fact, that they were better in every way.

363. About three years ago had the people sufficient clothing for the purposes of decency?—They had three years ago, before any of those burdens came upon them at all.

364. Was it sufficient for the purposes of decency?—It was.

365. Were their persons exposed?—Their persons were not exposed.

366. Do you know of your own knowledge that the persons of the members of the families whose names have been mentioned were exposed last year in the manner you have described?—They were.

367. Some of them wore such bad clothing that they could not be decently seen?—Yes.

368. Did you see that with your own eyes?—I did.

369. In many cases?—I did in many cases in Middletown, and in Magheraclogher also.

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370. To come to the townland of Carrick, Carrick is divided into many divisions, is it not?—It is.

371. Into how many divisions?—There are what I call four separate Carricks.

372. How many families are there in all four?—Seventy.

373. How many cows' grass are there in all?—One hundred and twenty-six.

374. Now, in Carrick Boyle, how many cows' grass are there?—Thirty-three.

375. What was the old rent of those cows' grass?—Six shillings and eightpence.

376. What is the new rent?—Sixteen shillings.

377. That is an increase from 11 *l.* to 26 *l.* 8 *s.*, is it not?—I believe it is.

378. Can you say the same of Carrick McGarvey?—I can; that is increased in the same way.

379. There is Carrick McCafferty, how many cows' grass were there there?—Thirty.

380. What was the old rent?—Seven shillings and fourpence.

381. What is the new rent?—Seventeen shillings and eightpence.

382. That is also an increase from 11 *l.* to 26 *l.* 10 *s.*, is it not?—It is.

383. In Carrick Coyle, how many cows' grass are there?—Thirty.

384. What was the old rent?—Six shillings.

385. What is it now?—Fifteen shillings.

386. That is an increase, is it not, from 9 *l.*, the old rent, to 27 *l.* 10 *s.*, the new rent?—Yes.

387. Has not the total of the rent of Carrick been increased from 42 *l.*, the old rent, to 101 *l.* 16 *s.* the new rent?—Yes.

388. Had the people of this townland the right of grazing?—They had the use of the mountains and the top lands, as well as the other people in the parish.

389. What do you call the top lands?—The top lands are where there used to be people cutting their turf, and places for grazing their cattle near their houses; that has also been taken away.

390. Will you let the Committee distinctly understand that, not only was the grazing taken away, but the top lands, upon which they used to graze and cut turf, were also taken from them?—Yes, that is so.

391. And the rent was nearly doubled on the strips that have been left to them?—Yes; it has been more than doubled in some places.

392. Who is the owner of that property?—Lord George Hill.

393. With regard to those top lands, which the people had the use of before either for grazing or for taking turf from, were they made into new cuts?—Yes.

394. And let out to new people?—They were.

395. They were taken away from those who had them before?—Yes.

396. When was that?—A couple of years ago.

397. Do you know that of your own knowledge?—I do; I was there.

398. Had those people extensive tracts of mountain pasturage?—They had the mountains of the parish, and all the commonage of them all, as well as those mountains that were near their homes.

399. Had they tracts of pasturage in Strakeenagh?—They had the privilege of going up there.

400. And in Antatarty?—Yes.

401. And in Meenderryamph?—Yes.

402. Those mountain tracts were let out, were they not, to the Scotch and English graziers?—They were.

403. How many new cuts were made out of those townlands that the people had a right to before on this townland of Carrick; were there 10?—There were more, there were about 20 at any rate.

404. If I understand you rightly, all that the landlord did was simply to mark the boundary, and to let any tenant do all the rest?—Yes.

405. It was let to them in a state of nature?—It was.

406. And after a time a rent was put upon it?—Yes.

407. What was the county cess on this townland of Carrick in the spring of 1857?—£.3. 11*s.* 2*d.*

408. In the summer of 1857, how much was it?—It was 72*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*

409. Did that include the police tax?—It did not.

410. Are

410. Are the people of this townland of Carrick much reduced in their circumstances within the last three years?—They are.

411. Did you know their circumstances three years ago?—I did know their circumstances three years ago.

412. And four years ago?—Four years ago.

413. Did you know them five and six years ago?—I did.

414. Were they more badly off then than they were last year?—They were.

415. Do you know those people intimately?—I know them from travelling through the district.

416. Were you often in their houses?—Yes, I was.

417. Did you see what they eat?—I did.

418. Did you see what kind of clothes they had on?—I did.

419. And the bedding upon which they slept?—Yes.

420. Would the same description that you gave of the other places apply to the people of this townland?—Just in the same way.

421. Are you positive that you saw a number of families in that townland endeavouring, to use your own words, to prolong their meals by sea-weed?—Yes.

422. Are their farms now sufficient to support them?—They are not.

423. Are the strips let to them sufficient?—No, the strips let to them in the top land between the bottom of the mountain and the sea are not enough; the sea sand encroaches upon that land, and it is not enough.

424. Is it the fact that the sea sand is encroaching yearly on the land at the foot of their cuts?—It is.

425. The land goes down to the sea shore?—It goes down to meet the sand.

426. And the sand is yearly encroaching upon it, is it not?—It goes up on that land.

427. Does the landlord allow for that yearly encroachment?—Not a halfpenny; I know of my own knowledge that they are not allowed anything for it.

428. Do you know if much injury is done to the people and to the land by the encroaching of the sea sands upon it?—Yes.

429. And that the landlord allows them nothing for the loss sustained in consequence of this natural invasion?—He does not, and never did.

430. Lord George Hill is the landlord, is he not?—He is.

431. Is their principal food sea-weed and bad watery potatoes in the winter and in the spring?—Yes.

432. Is it crabs and cockles, and other shell-fish in summer, together with Indian meal?—It is.

433. That is the description of the food of the people?—That is the description of the food of the people.

434. Do you state that the food of the people was a great deal better in former years than it was last year?—Yes.

435. How many meals are the people of this townland able to eat in the day?—Not more than two scanty meals a day.

436. Do you know that from themselves?—Yes; and from my own knowledge through the people.

437. Have you seen them at their meals?—Yes; it is in the spring of the year, when a man is working hard, that he takes perhaps a collation in the evening.

438. Just follow me with these names; has Ned Sweeney a family?—He has a family, and he eats sea-weed.

439. Hugh Sweeney?—Hugh Sweeney the same.

440. Hugh Magee?—The same.

441. John Magee?—The same, but he is not one of the poorest.

442. Still he eats sea-weed, does he not?—He does: he has a little more cattle than the other people of the town.

443. Tom Ferry, does he eat sea-weed?—He eats sea-weed; he was obliged to sell his last cow to pay the taxes.

444. In former years was that man tolerably well off?—He was very well off in former years.

445. You say that Tom Ferry was obliged to sell his last cow to pay the taxes?—He was.

446. And that he is reduced to great indigence now?—Yes, he is; only he is now supported by a son-in-law that lives on the Marquis of Conyngham's property.

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447. Had that man a number of cattle at one time?—He had.

448. Had he the right of pasturage on the mountain?—Just the same as the others.

449. Do you know that that man and his family do live on sea-weed as well as on other food?—Yes.

450. Were they obliged to eat sea-weed?—I know they were obliged to eat it.

451. Brian Magee, do you know him?—I do.

452. Do his family use sea-weed?—They do; but he has not a large family. I will not consider him one of the poorest; he has a little more potatoes than some of the rest of the town, from the quantity of land that he held.

453. But nevertheless you know that his family use sea-weed?—Yes, to prolong the potatoes; and if they can they sell part of them to help to pay the taxes; they do so.

454. There is a man here named Ferigle Gallagher; do you know that man and his family?—Yes.

455. Do they use sea-weed, to your knowledge?—Yes.

456. Condy Magee, do you know that family?—Yes.

457. Do you know, of your own knowledge, that they use it?—Yes.

458. Magey M'Gallagher, what do you know about her?—She is obliged to use it too.

459. Dominick M'Garvey?—He is obliged to use it.

460. Hugh M'Garvey?—Yes.

461. Nancy M'Fadden?—Yes.

462. Margaret M'Bride?—Yes.

463. Shane M'Fadden?—Yes.

464. Do you know that they have been obliged to use sea-weed, in order to prolong the potatoes?—Yes.

465. Do you know that any of those people are so badly off that their clothing does not serve the purposes of decency?—I do.

466. Have you seen any of those people ashamed to come out in consequence?—I have.

467. Have you yourself seen that?—Yes.

468. Have you seen grown women or young girls, or both, in that condition?—I have seen plenty of grown women that could not come out.

469. You know, of your own knowledge, that there are women who could not come out in consequence of not having sufficient clothing to appear before the eye of men?—I do.

470. Are you positive as to that?—I am.

471. Do you know any other persons in that townland?—I know every one in the townland.

472. Is the description you have given of the people that I have named a description that would apply to the rest?—Yes.

473. Will you tell the Committee something about the bedding of the people who have been mentioned?—The bedding is just as I have described it in the former townlands.

474. Without exaggeration, would it be scarcely a decent bed for a gentleman's dog?—It would not.

475. Do you say that positively?—Yes; there are not three houses in all the Carricks that could accommodate a stranger with a good bed; there are no feather beds in it at all; the general beds are just composed of those pieces of sticks and filled up with straw and what we call bent or rough grass.

476. Do you know the townland of Meenaduff?—I do.

477. That comprises Meenadreen, Magheralosk, and Meenaduff?—It does.

478. How many families are there on that townland?—There are 35 families.

479. How many cows' grass?—Fifty-four.

480. What was the old rent?—The old rent of Meenaduff was 11 *s.* 3 *d.*; of Magheralosk it was from that to 13 *s.* 6*d.*; and the new rent of Meenaduff is 1 *l.* 2 *s.* 6 *d.*

481. The old rent of the cows' grass was from 11 *s.* 3 *d.* to 13 *s.* 6*d.*?—Yes.

482. The new rent is how much?—£. 1. 2 *s.* 6 *d.*; Magheralosk is 1 *l.* 5 *s.*

483. The rent is raised from 11 *s.* 3 *d.* to 13 *s.* 6*d.*, the old rent, to 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* up to 1 *l.* 5 *s.*, the new rent?—Yes.

484. The

484. The new rent ranges from 1 *l.* 2 *s.* 6 *d.* to 1 *l.* 5 *s.*?—Yes; there are 18 cows' grasses, rented at 1 *l.* 2 *s.* 6 *d.*, and 36 at 1 *l.* 5 *s.*

485. That now charged 1 *l.* 2 *s.* 6 *d.* was 11 *s.* 3 *d.* according to the old rent?—Yes.

486. Therefore the rent is doubled?—It is.

487. Was the pasturage taken away from those people?—They had the commonage of the mountains the same as the rest, and that has been taken from them.

488. Has the number of head of cattle been much reduced on that townland? It has been.

489. What was the number of horses that they had on that townland some time since?—There was hardly a tenant on that townland that had not a horse of his own, and now there are only five or six horses in the whole of that townland.

490. How many tenants were there;—Thirty-five.

491. And almost every tenant, you say, had a horse?—Yes.

492. Would I be right in saying that there were 35 horses in that townland?—I believe you would; almost every tenant had a horse.

493. Do you know that of your own knowledge?—I do.

494. How many are there now?—Only five.

495. Do you know that from your own personal inspection?—I know those that have them, and those that have not them.

496. How do you account for the reduction in the number of horses; what is the cause of it?—The cause of it is poverty; the people being brought down by the loss of the mountain, by the rent, and by the taxation, and by their being placed upon smaller strips of land.

497. They are the same causes as have influenced the people in the other townlands, are they not?—Yes.

498. Taking away the mountain pasture, taking away the bog land, and doubling the rent of what is left?—Yes; but as to this townland, I could not say that they lost any mountains, but they had the commonage of the mountains in the district as well as the rest of the tenants.

499. Are the people of this district in a good condition or in a very bad condition?—The general part of them are in a poor condition.

500. Are they in a bad condition as to clothing and bedding and food?—Yes.

501. Are they much worse off than they ever were before?—They are much worse off now than they ever were before.

502. Is the rest of their stock reduced in proportion to the reduction in their horses?—Yes.

503. Have their cattle and sheep been reduced in the same way?—Yes; they have been reduced in the same way.

504. If necessary, you could give the names of the people and also their circumstances, could you not?—I could.

505. Is that last townland which has been mentioned on Lord George Hill's property?—It is.

506. Do you know the townland of Magheragallen?—I do.

507. Is that on Lord George Hill's estate?—It is.

508. Are the people in that townland comfortable?—They are not.

509. Would you say that they are affluent?—I would not.

510. Would you positively assert that they are not?—I would positively assert that they are not.

511. Are they miserably poor?—They are miserably poor, as poor as can be, which is no wonder when they they are paying such taxes for what they are not guilty of.

512. Did they lose their mountain grazing?—They did; they lost the privilege of the mountain grazing on Cronahultagh.

513. How many families are there in this townland of Magheragallen?—That includes the townland of Magheragallen and Cotteen.

514. How many cows' grass were there formerly in that townland?—Forty-one.

515. How many families were there?—Twenty-two.

516. What was the old rent?—The old rent was 10 *s.*

517. Was that rent raised?—It was raised to 16 *s.*

518. Then the rent was raised in the whole from 20 *l.* 10 *s.* to 32 *l.* 16 *s.*, was not it?—I believe so.

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519. What was the county cess in the spring of 1857?—The spring cess of 1857 was 1*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* in that townland, and the summer cess of the same townland was 26*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*

520. Do you attribute the misery that you have described as much to the taking away of the mountain grazing and to the raising of the rent as to the increase in the taxation?—I do.

521. Before the taxation was put upon them, were they made poor by the increase of the rent and by the taking away of the mountain?—They were.

522. Do you know the people of this district well?—I do.

523. Were you often amongst them?—Yes; I know every one that lives in it at present.

524. Have you been to their houses frequently?—I have.

525. Will you describe to the Committee what is their principal food?—Their principal food is the same as the food used by the people in the other townlands; that is to say, they eat potatoes and this sea-weed in the spring and the winter, and in the summer they use crabs, cockles, dulse, and Indian meal.

526. Is there scarcely any family in that townland that was not obliged to use sea-weed?—I do not think that there are more than two or three families in the town that were not obliged to use it.

527. As a general rule, they were obliged to use it?—They were.

528. Do you state that of your own knowledge?—Yes, I can state that of my own knowledge.

529. Was it eaten, to use your own phrase, to prolong their potatoes?—Yes, it was.

530. Would they have had enough of food to satisfy the cravings of hunger without making use of the sea-weed?—They would not.

531. Do you known the townland of Dore?—I do.

532. Is that on Lord George Hill's estate?—It is.

533. Does it comprise Upper, Middle, and Lower Dore?—It does.

534. Had the Dore people commonage for their cattle near Tor?—They had.

535. Have they it now?—They have not.

536. How many cows' grass was there in that district?—There are 32 cows' grass in each; that is 96.

537 Was the rent raised?—The rent was raised.

538. From what?—In Lower and Middle Dore it was raised from 16*s.* to 1*l.* 4*s.*

539. What was it raised in the other district?—It was raised in Upper Dore from 17 *s.* to 1*l.* 6*s.*

540. It would seem that the rent was raised from 78*l.* 18*s.* to 118*l.* 8*s.*?—It was raised from 78 *l.* 18 *s.* to 118 *l.* 8 *s.*

541. What was the county cess in the spring of 1857?—The county cess of 1857 was 4*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*

542. What was it in the summer:—£. 120. 12. 4.

543. Is their stock very much reduced, or increased?—Very much reduced.

544. Had they many head of cattle formerly?—They had a great deal more than they have now.

545. Have they half the number now that they had three years ago?—They have not.

546. Do you know anything of the number?—I could not tell the number.

547. Are their sheep very much reduced?—They are greatly reduced compared to what they were.

548. Are they reduced to one-fourth?—They are reduced certainly to one-fourth.

549. Are they reduced from 390 down to 80?—They are; I believe that to be the fact.

550. From your own observation, you think that they are reduced to one-fourth?—Yes, compared to what they had.

551. And you think that they have lost three-fourths?—Yes.

552. Do you know Peggy Gallagher?—I do.

553. How many has she in family?—I believe there are six or seven in her family.

554. Is her husband alive?—No, he is not.

555. What was the cause of his death?—He went out along with the police

to look for those Scotch sheep that the people were obliged to be paying for, and he died on his way before he came home.

556. Did the police compel him to go out with them, or did he go willingly to assist them to recover the sheep?—I believe the head constable, Young, called upon him to go out.

557. Do you know that of your own knowledge?—I know that he was with them; I saw him when he left with the police, and they told me what they were going to do, and he did go with them.

558. Is he alive now?—No, he died on that journey.

559. Was that man in good circumstances, or was he poor?—He was poor enough, but he had been better off than what he was then.

560. Was he well fed?—He was well enough fed with potatoes at the time that he was out.

561. What was the name of the man?—Nogher Gallagher.

562. Had the people of that townland many cows before?—They had; but they have not now.

563. They have been reduced to great poverty, have they not?—They have.

564. Do you say that the same description that you have given of the other townlands applies to the food, and the bedding, and clothing of these people?—I do.

565. Do you know the townland of Stranacorcragh?—Yes.

566. On whose land is that?—On Lord George Hill's.

567. How many cows' grass are there in that townland?—Thirty-two.

568. Was the rent raised upon them?—It was raised from 15*s.* to 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

569. Had the people of this townland the right to send their cattle upon the mountain?—They have the right to send their cattle upon the mountain of Strakeenagh.

570. What was the county cess in the spring of 1857?—£.1. 11*s.* 6*d.*; and the summer cess was 39*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, exclusive of the police tax.

571. Those people lost their grazing, did they not?—Yes.

572. And their rent was increased from 15*s.* to 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*?—Yes.

573. And then, to make their circumstances better, the tax was put upon them?—Yes.

574. Could you, if necessary, go through the names of the people in this townland, and state their circumstances, as you have done with regard to the other townlands?—Yes.

575. Does the description that you have given to the other townlands apply to this townland?—Yes.

576. Have you seen the people of this townland obliged to use sea-weed as an article of food?—I have.

577. To prolong the potatoes?—Yes.

578. Have you seen them use it several times?—Yes; but I have not seen it so often as the people more convenient to me.

579. Have you seen the majority of them eat it?—I have.

580. Is their bedding anything better than straw, with a quilt over it?—It is not; there are a few houses in the townland better off than the rest, but the greater number of them are in that state.

581. With regard to the clothing of those people, do you know any case in this townland where the day clothes were not sufficient to cover the person with decency?—I do.

582. Have you seen cases yourself?—I have.

583. Have you seen any cases where the women were ashamed to go out of the door of their houses?—I have.

584. Do you know if that was from feelings of modesty and delicacy?—It was, certainly.

585. In fact, they did shrink from the eye of men?—They did.

586. They were ashamed, were they not, to be seen by men?—They were ashamed to be seen by any strange men.

587. That is to say, their persons were indecently exposed because of the wretchedness of their clothes?—Yes.

588. Is that the description that you give to the Committee?—That is the description which I give to the Committee.

589. Whose property was that on?—Lord George Hill's.

590. Do you know the townland of Meenanillar?—I do.

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591. Is that on Lord George Hill's estate?—It is.

592. Was the rent raised there?—Yes, the rent was raised there.

593. Can you tell the Committee what the rent was raised on that townland?—I believe it was raised from 15 *s.* to 30 *s.*; but I am not certain.

594. Was the total rent at Meenanillar, as well as you can learn, raised from 8 *l.* 19 *s.* to 20 *l.* 10 *s.*?—I believe it was.

595. It was very much raised, was it not?—It was.

596. What was the county cess in the spring of 1857?—Fourteen shillings and eleven pence.

597. What was it in the summer?—£.18. 9*s.* 4*d.*, exclusive of the police rates.

598. What is the condition of the people of this townland?—Their condition is very poor, the same as the other townlands, with the exception of one or two people.

599. Were there any new cuts made out of land that was formerly enjoyed by those people?—There were plenty.

600. Can you say how many there were in that townland?—I think there were 11 or 12 cuts made.

601. Had those people mountain grazing?—They had.

602. Of what mountain?—They had the mountain belonging to the townland of Meenanillar.

603. Does your description of the others apply also to the food, the day clothing, and the bedding of this townland?—Yes, in the same way.

604. With regard to their food, what should you say?—Their food is just in the same manner as the rest.

605. Do you know the townland of Lunniagh?—I do.

606. Is that on Lord George Hill's estate?—It is.

607. How many families are there in that townland?—Thirty-one families.

608. How many cows' grass?—Thirty-nine.

609. What was the former rent?—Twelve shillings.

610. What is the present rent?—£.1.

611. The total rent has been raised, has it not, from 23*l.* 8*s.* to 39*l.*?—It has.

612. What was the county cess in the spring of 1857?—£. 1. 12*s.* 4*d.*, and in the summer it was 40*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*

613. Was the privilege of mountain grazing taken away from those people?—It was.

614. Was that at the time that their rent was increased from 12*s.* to 1*l.*?—It was.

615. Were the top lands, that is, the bog lands, taken away from them?—They were taken away.

616. Were they divided into new cuts for new tenants?—They are.

617. Are they very wide?—They are not very wide.

618. Are they as wide as the length of this room?—About that.

619. Are they much more?—No, they are not.

620. What is the charge for them?—The tenants themselves were telling me that it was 30*s.*, and I know one of them that is charged 2*l.*

621. How long have the new tenants had those cuts?—It was about two years ago.

622. Do you say that they are now charged a rent for those cuts?—I did not say that they paid anything for them as yet, but that they are to pay it.

623. When are they to pay it?—When the landlord likes.

624. No rent has been paid yet?—No; there is one spot occupied by a former tenant that was made into small patches, averaging four or five perches, from that to 20 perches, and they were charged 2*l.* for this piece, because they had it in occupation before; they pay that for the new rent altogether.

625. In case a new tenant is given one of those cuts, does he get anything to help him build the house or cultivate the land?—No; it is in a wild state, just as it was cut.

626. Have you been amongst the people of this district?—I have.

627. In what state are they?—They are in a bad state, just as I have explained as to the rest.

628. Are they poorer than they were three years ago?—Very much poorer.

629. Was

629. Was their clothing three years ago any way comfortable?—It was decenter than what it is now.

630. However poor it was, was it sufficient to cover them?—It was.

631. You are positive of that?—I am positive of it.

632. Was it sufficient three years ago, for the purposes of decency, to hide the person?—It was.

633. Was it so last year?—It was not.

634 Do you know that of your own knowledge?—I do.

635. Did you see any women whose clothing was such as was not fit for the purposes of decency and modesty?—I did.

636. Were they ashamed to come out, or could the decently come out?—They could not come out decently.

637. Could they exhibit themselves before strangers?—They could not; not with decency.

638. Do you know Sheskinbeg?—I do.

639 On whose estate is it?—Lord George Hill's.

640. Was the rent raised upon that townland?—It was.

641. Was it double what it was before?—It was just about doubled.

642. Was it raised from 5*l.* 5*s.* 7½*d.* to 10*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*?—Yes.

643. Was the mountain grazing taken away from the people?—It was; the same mountains that were taken from the rest.

644. What was the cess in the spring of 1857?—Eleven shillings and two-pence.

645. What was it in the summer of 1857?—£.13 18*s.* 1*d.*, exclusive of the police-tax.

646. You state that those people lost the privilege of mountain grazing?—Yes; they lost the privilege of mountain grazing, as the rest of the country lost it.

647. The rent of the land that remained in their hands was doubled, was it not?—It was.

648. Is their stock as abundant as it was?—It is not.

649. Is it much decreased?—They have not the stock at all that they had.

650. That is from your own knowledge?—That is from my own knowledge; not merely from reports given to me, I having been so long through them.

651. Could you go through the names of the people of this townland as you did the others, and tell the Committee what their circumstances were?—I could.

652. I ask you does your description of the food, clothing, and the bedding apply to this townland as well as to other townlands?—It does; just in the same way.

653. Do you know the townland of Arduns?—I do.

654. On whose property is that—Lord George Hill's.

655. To whom was the rent paid formerly?—It was paid formerly to the people of Gold Island.

656. What was the rent formerly?—1*s.* 8*d.* was the cow's grass, I believe.

657. Was the entire rent something about 2*l.* 11 s.?—I do not think it was 2*l.* 11*s.*; I do not believe that it was more than 11*s.*; but it was 48 cows' grass at 1*s.* 8*d.*

658. Was the gross amount about 2*l.* 11*s.*?—It was about 2*l.* 11*s.*

659. Did Lord George Hill take this land?—He did; he has it in his own possession; he made a park of it.

660. Did he continue to give it at the same rent, or did he increase the rent?—He increased the rent upon this to 5*s.* the cow's grass.

661. Did he increase it from 2*l.* 11*s.* to 7*l.* 10*s.*?—He did.

662. What was the cess in the spring of 1857?—Eleven shillings and a penny was the spring cess, and 13*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* was the summer cess.

663. Do you know Stramaekilmartin?—Yes.

664. Whose estate is that on?—Lord George Hill's.

665. How many cows' grass are there in that townland?—Twelve cows' grass.

666. What was the old rent?—The old rent was 12*s.*

667. What was the gross amount, was it 7*l.* 4*s.*?—Yes.

668. What was it raised to?—From 7*l.* to 15*l.*

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669. It was raised from 12 *s.* to 1 *l.* 5 *s.*, was it not?—It was.

670. What was the cess in the spring of 1857?—Eight shillings.

671. What was it in the summer of 1857?—£. 0. 17 *s.* 6 *d.*

672. Did the people of this townland lose the mountain grazing?—The people of this townland lost the mountain grazing the same as the rest.

673. Are their circumstances much reduced?—They are.

674. Are they very much reduced?—Very much reduced, except two or three in that townland.

675. Are the generality of them very poor?—They are generally very poor.

676. Could you name them all if necessary?—I could.

677. Do you know Innishirrer?—I do.

678. What was the former rent?—There were 18 cows' grass, and the former rent of it was 11 *s.*

679. What was it raised to?—To 1 *l.* 5 *s.*

680. Are the people well off there?—They are very poor.

681. Are they obliged to eat sea-weed?—They are, to prolong the potatoes.

682. Are their beds good or bad?—Very bad.

683. Are the women well clothed?—They are not.

684. Do you know of any one case where their persons are exposed, for want of sufficient day covering?—I do.

685. Is it not sufficient for the purposes of decency?—No.

686. Are the people worse off, for the last two years, than you ever knew them to be before?—They are poorer.

687. How long have you known the people of this district?—Twenty years and more.

688. Did you ever know those people to have been so badly off as for the last two years?—I never did.

689. That is from your own personal observation?—That is from my own personal knowledge and observation.

690. Are the people laborious and industrious?—They are an industrious people, if they have the means to live.

691. Used they to knit stockings?—Yes; but they have lost their sheep.

692. They have lost the wool in consequence of the mountain commons being taken away from them?—They have.

693. That source of industry is done away with?—Yes; the greater part of it is done away with.

694. At one time the people had plenty of wool to knit stockings, and to make flannels?—Yes, they had.

695. Therefore, when they had the materials for making flannel, of course they could be more comfortably clothed than they are now?—Yes.

696. They used to sell those articles, did they not, which they manufactured?—They used to bring them out of the place to different places.

697. When the mountain grazing was taken away, they were obliged to buy wool, were they not?—They were.

698. And of course they could not make the same profit on the stockings?—No, they could not.

699. Is there much of that kind of industry going on there now?—Not as much as there was going on when they had the sheep and the wool and the mountain pasturage; the women were all working at it then, but they are not working at it now; they have not the wool nor the sheep.

700. Did Lord George Hill establish a store for the sale of general goods at a place called Bunbeg?—He did.

701. Is that in the district of Gweedore?—It is.

702. How long since was that?—It is between, I suppose, 15 and 20 years ago.

703. He also established a bakery, did he not?—He did.

704. Was Lord George Hill for free-trade?—I believe not.

705. Would he allow any rivalry there?—He would not allow any second bakery in that part of the country.

706. Would he not allow any of his tenantry to compete with him?—He would not.

707. Was there any instance in which opposition was attempted?—There was.

708. Was that attempted by a man named Craig?—Yes; Dennis Craig; I know

know that he set a room of his to one man who had a cloth shop and who was coming to live there at a place called Derrybeg, and he was obliged to leave it again; the tenant was threatened to be ejected, and he was served with a notice to quit.

709. Was that in consequence of his interference with any other person?—It was, I believe, in consequence of its interfering with the shop at Bunbeg.

710. Was there any other reason?—I could not say.

711. Do you know a woman named Margaret Sweeney?—I do.

712. Was she about to set up a bakery?—She was; she had a baker for some time, but he was obliged to go away; a baker came to live with her and he built an oven in the house.

713. Was she setting up a bakery?—She was; she was to receive so much from him while he remained with her, for the use of the house and the bakery; she was also served with a notice, and was threatened to be ejected if she did not send away that baker, because he was in opposition to the Scotchman; that is what I believe.

714. What Scotchman?—The baker that was brought there by Lord George Hill to that estate.

715. Were you bailiff at that time?—I was.

716. Were you sent to tell that woman anything?—I was sent to her, and told her to send away that man, and I served her with a notice to quit.

717. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] What reason did you give her?—I knew the reason, because she had a bakery and a baker in the house.

718. Lord *Naas.*] What reason did you give her?—For letting in that man, and having a bakery in the house.

719. Mr. *P. Wyheham Martin.*] Was it for taking in lodgers?—The reason was that this man came to sell and bake bread in opposition to Mason, the Scotchman.

720. Mr. *Maguire.*] What was the purport of your instructions; what did you go to tell the woman, and what did you tell her?—I told her to send that baker out of the house or she would be ejected.

721. Why was that?—Because she gave him the liberty of coming in and baking in the country, because there was another baker in the country before.

722. Did you tell her that?—I did not tell her so; I told her she would be sent out if she did not send away the baker.

723. Why should she send away the baker?—Because if she would not send him away she would be put out of her house and land.

724. Why was that; was it because he would bake bread?—Because he would bake bread in opposition to Lord George Hill's baker,

725. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Who told you that?—I knew it myself; I knew the errand that I was sent for.

726. *Chairman.*] Would that man have been sent out if he were merely a lodger and not a baker?—He would not.

727. Would the woman of the house be in any way interfered with if that man were an ordinary lodger, and not a person who came there to start an opposition?—He would not, if he were a lodger only, but it was because he was a baker; that was the reason.

728. Can you tell the Committee what is the rate of wages paid to a labouring man on Lord George Hill's property, on the townlands of which we have been speaking?—Ten-pence in the summer and eight-pence in the winter.

729. Is that by taskwork or by day work, or how are they employed?—Ten-pence, is by day work.

730. Is there any employment in the district at 1 *s.*, or 1 *s.* 6 *d.*, or 2 *s.*?—Only at the time of turf cutting.

731. That is the turf harvest, is it not?—Yes, that is the turf harvest; the present season of the year.

732. How long does that last?—It will last about a fortnight.

733. What is the average rate of wages for the last year in that district?—Ten-pence in the summer and eight-pence in the winter.

734. Unless in the turf season, is it ever more than a shilling?—It is not.

735. Are you positive of that?—I am positive that it is never more than a shilling, and a shilling is not given unless in the harvest season of the year.

736. What is the rate of wages in the ordinary harvest season?—Just the same, 10 *d.* to 1 *s.*

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737. Is it ever 2 *s.* ?—No, it is not.

738. Do you say that the average rate of wages is only 10 *d.* in summer, 8 *d.* in winter, 2 *s.* a day for a fortnight in the time of turf cutting, and 1 *s.* in the ordinary harvest ?—No, they do not get 2 *s.* in the turf season; they only get about 1 *s.* 6 *d.*

739. Is that the highest rate ever paid to a labouring man in that district ?—That is the highest rate.

740. And is that only paid for a fortnight in the year ?—That is all.

741. In the ordinary harvest, are they not paid more than 1 *s.* ?—They are not.

742. In winter, you say that they do not get more than 8 *d.*, and 10 *d.* in summer ?—Yes, it is so.

743. So that there is no such thing as a labouring man earning 2 *s.* a day in that district ?—No.

744. Do they get food in winter with that 8 *d.* ?—They do not.

745. Do they get any allowance whatever with the 8 *d.* ?—Nothing but the 8 *d.* itself in the winter, and 10 *d.* in the summer; in harvest they get from 10 *d.* to 1 *s.*; and they generally get something to eat in harvest.

746. How long does the harvest last ?—About a week or a fortnight; and the turf cutting lasts a fortnight.

747. That is a month out of the entire year in which they get anything beyond their wages ?—Yes.

748. Do you say that from your own knowledge of the district ?—I do; I know the men to be only getting 10 *d.* in summer, and 8 *d.* in winter.

749. Do Lord George Hill's agriculturists set task-work to the people; perch-work ?—They do.

750. At how much a perch ?—Sixpence a perch.

751. For digging how many yards ?—Seven yards square.

752. What time would it take a good labourer to dig one perch of this land ?—I have known a labourer not to dig a perch of it in a day; if a man was to exert himself well, a perch would give him enough work in a day.

753. What is the payment for that ?—Sixpence.

754. Are you positive of that ?—I am positive of it; I have known them to be delving at 6 *d.*

755. Have you known it to be lower ?—Not on that land.

756. You say that it will take a strong hard-working man to do that 6 *d.* job in a day ?—It would take a strong hard-working man a day.

757. Could he do two of them in a day ?—In some places he could, but not in the places where they were getting employment under Lord George's land steward.

758. Could they do two of those perches that you speak of under Lord George Hill's land steward ?—They could not.

759. At any rate, a man could not do four in a day ?—No.

760. He could not earn 2 *s.* a day ?—No, nor he could not earn 1 *s.* in a day.

761. In consequence of the smallness of the wages of the labouring men, what do the wives of the labouring men do ?—The wives used to be knitting stockings before now, and to be endeavouring to support themselves in that way; but since they have lost their sheep, they have lost also that employment, and there is no employment in the country.

762. What are they obliged to do ?—I think they would die of hunger only for the means that are got up for relieving them.

763. Did they go about begging ?—Some of them did.

764. Are they very fond of going into the workhouse ?—They are not very fond of it; some of them would go in if they were let.

765. Do any of them apply for relief ?—Some of them applied, and were sent back again.

766. Why were they sent back again; do you know any of them ?—I knew a man that was sent back from the poor-house, who is now dead; his name was Paddy Doohan.

767. Where did he live ?—In the townland called Meenahcunge.

768. When was he refused ?—Some years ago.

769. Was there a good potato harvest last year ?—No, there was not; there was a great failure of the potato crop last year, and after they were harvested in the pits the greater part of them rotted in the pits.

770. Were

770. Were the rents paid last year punctually?—I cannot say that.

771. Do you know anything about the manner in which Lord George Hill collected the rents; did he do it later or earlier than usual?—They began a month earlier than usual last season.

772. When were they collected?—They commenced about the 4th of November.

773. Were the rents collected in the ordinary way; were they collected through the bailiff, or had the head-constable anything to do with it?—I believe he assisted the agent the whole time.

774. Do you say that the rents were collected a month earlier than in former years?—I do say that they were collected a month earlier than they were in former years.

775. Are you positive of that?—I am positive of it.

776. Do you say that the misery of the people of those districts was principally owing to the taking away of the mountain pasturage?—I do.

777. Was it also owing to the taking away of the top lands?—Yes.

778. And was it also owing to the increase of the rents?—Yes.

779. And lastly, to the burden of the sheep tax and the police tax?—Yes; I do say that they are the principal reasons for their poverty.

780. Do you say this, that you have given an accurate and true description, from your own knowledge, of the state of the people, of the reduction in their cattle, their miserable clothing, bedding, and food; have you given an unexaggerated statement of the case to the Committee?—I have given as accurate a statement as I possibly could.

781. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Do you know a person named Daniel M'Bride?—I do.

782. Is he a man that you would trust, whose word you would believe; is he a man likely to tell the truth?—I do not know whether I would depend upon him telling the truth or not.

783. If you were told that Daniel M'Bride, who lives among the people, said that he did not know that any family of the neighbourhood was living on sea-weed, would you suppose that he had any reason to tell an untruth upon the subject?—I would not believe him.

784. With regard to this sea-weed, did you ever know any person, not a poor person, eat this sea-weed. Supposing that I were to go down to the Gweedore Hotel, would I have the sea-weed given to me?—I do not think you would eat it.

785. What sort of sea-weed is it?—It is what I call wrack, that grows on the rocks, that is used for manuring land, and the top of it is eaten by the people.

786. Have you never known anybody eat it that was not compelled to eat it, because in the West of England it is very much eaten by gentlemen?—People might use it that were not compelled to use it, for the want of proper kitchen.

787. What did you call it?—Dolamaun.

788. Is it ever sold in the streets of Waterford and other towns of Ireland as a delicacy?—I think not; I never knew it to be sold anywhere.

789. You have known Gweedore, you say, for 20 years?—I have.

790. You state that the rents have been so much raised, that the cow's grass has been raised to 1 *l.*; is it not true, that in 1839 the rent of a cow's grass was rather over than under 1 *l.* before Lord George Hill came there?—No; it never was 1 *l.*

791. I have a list here, by which it appears that 8 *l.* 3 *s.* 4 *d.* was paid for eight cows' grass (some were more and some were less, but the whole eight fetched 8 *l.* 3 *s.* 4 *d.*), in 1839, before Lord George Hill went to the place?—At what place was that?

792. At Gweedore?—That is not true.

793. Did you ever hear of a petition that was sent to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland by one Patrick M'Kye, 20 years ago, in 1837, which was published in the newspapers at the time, and caused great inquiry in this House?—He might have done so.

794. Here is a sentence out of it: "None of their, either married or unmarried, women can afford more than one shift, and the fewest number cannot afford any; and more than one half of both men and women cannot afford shoes to their feet, nor can many of them afford a second bed, but whole families of sons and

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daughters of mature age indiscriminately lying together with their parents; and all in the bare buff." Was that the state of things 20 years ago?—It was not.

795. What I have read to you is from a petition which was presented to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland at the time from an inhabitant of Gweedore?—I do not mind myself anything about it; I never heard of that petition.

796. You state that the knitting has very much decreased?—It has.

797. You were bailiff to Lord George Hill till very recently; do you know that Mr. Robinson last year paid between 500 *l.* and 600 *l.* for knitted socks, hosiery, and those sort of things, the produce of the labour of the women of this district?—He was buying stockings.

798. Do you think it likely that he bought that amount, because that is a very large amount for stockings; and you stated that they were quite deprived of their knitting?—So they were.

799. Where did they get wool to knit all this?—They get the wool out in other places.

800. You merely mean to say that they do not now knit their own wool?—This is so; but some of them are not able to buy any wool at all.

801. Were there ever any more beds in the district than there are now?—There were.

802. Twenty years ago were there?—When I mind there were better beds than now.

803. We will take 10 years back. You recollect the famine in 1847 and 1848; supposing there were such a failure of potatoes in this year, 1858, do you suppose that the condition of the people would be better this year than it was in 1848; would they be better prepared to meet it?—I cannot understand that question.

804. You recollect the famine of 1848; supposing a failure of potatoes were to happen this autumn, would the people be better off now than they were then?—They were far better off then than they would be now.

805. Your opinion is, that they would die of starvation?—They will, if the times do not mend; unless they are relieved in some way or other it is impossible for them to live there.

806. Have they more corn than they had in 1848?—No, they have not.

807. You are quite sure, notwithstanding this petition which I hold in my hand from a person residing in the country, that they are worse off now than they were 20 years ago, before Lord George Hill bought the property?—They are worse off these two last years than they were since I mind.

808. You were bailiff there for 17 years, you say?—I did not say that. I was not a bailiff for 17 years, but I was helping to collect the county cess with my father, 17 years.

809. That gave you a great knowledge of the habits of the people?—Yes.

810. I want to know whether the district has gone back or not during the last 17 years, is it worse than when you knew it first?—It is worse than it was 17 years ago; because they had the mountains then, and they had housefuls of sheep that they have not now, and they had horses too, but the whole of that is taken from them.

810*. This Patrick M'Kye's petition, is a petition of a poor man sent up to Dublin to obtain relief from the Lord Lieutenant?—It may be so.

811. Mr. *Maguire.*] Would you read the title of that pamphlet (*handing the same to the Witness*)?—"Facts from Gweedore, compiled from Notes by Lord George Hill."

812. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] This petition is not from Lord George Hill, but it is a petition sent to the Lord Lieutenant of the day, in which the petitioner says that in Gweedore, among 4,000 people at that time, there was only one plough, 16 harrows, eight saddles, 11 bridles, 20 shovels, 32 rakes, seven table-forks, 93 chairs, 243 stools, 10 iron grapes, no swine, hogs, or pigs, 27 geese, three turkeys, two feather-beds, eight chaff-beds, two stables, six cow-houses, one National school, no other school, one priest, no bonnet, no clock, no fruit trees, no turnips, no parsnips, no carrots, no clover, or any other garden vegetables but potatoes and cabbage; and here is a description of the beds. "Their beds are straw, green or dried rushes, or mountain-bent; their bed clothes are either coarse sheets or no sheets, and ragged filthy blankets:" If

that

that is a true account of the state of things 17 years ago, I want to know how it is made worse now?—I know that about 17 years ago they were better off than they are now, because they had the use of their own eggs and milk, and potatoes were cheap, but they have neither of those things now.

813. Then, Lord George Hill's coming there has done harm to the district rather than good, if he has made the state of things worse than it was before?—He has.

814. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] How long were you in Lord George Hill's employment as bailiff?—I cannot say; I suppose about seven or eight years I was bailiff for him; not more. I was four years under him as overseer over the men.

815. Was that before you were bailiff?—Yes.

816. You were bailiff in 1854, were you not, when this change took place, the taking away of the mountain and the raising of the rents?—I was.

817. What was the cause of the raising of the rents at the same time as the grazing was taken away?—I cannot say the cause.

818. Did the tenants get anything for the increased rent?—They did not.

819. Did they get nothing additional after 1854 as compensation for the rise of the rent, and the taking away of the grazing?—They got no compensation.

820. Were the rents made so high by reason of taking away the grazing and raising them at the same time?—They were higher than the land could bear.

821. Were they too high in your opinion, as a man well acquainted with the district?—They were.

822. Did you collect them for Lord George Hill up to 1857?—I did.

823. Were they paid to you by the people?—They were.

824. Had you to distrain any of them?—I had.

825. About how many were there in those three years, between 1854 and 1857?—I used to give them more time than they are getting now.

826. How many had you to distrain upon?—At that time I had not much to distrain; I do not think I distrained a dozen cattle in the whole estate.

827. Was that between 1854 and 1857?—Yes.

828. Did you sell any of those cattle that you distrained?—I did not sell them.

829. Were they, in point of fact, sold by anybody?—No, they were not.

830. They were got back by the people, were they not?—They were in my time.

831. Do you know of any considerable decrease in the quantity of stock owned by the people between 1854 and the summer of 1857, when that law was made?—There was certainly a decrease made in that time.

832. Did you know of any considerable change for the worse that took place in the food of the people of Gweedore between 1854 and the summer of 1857?—Yes, I did, certainly.

833. Before 1854, or in 1854, did you know many families used that sea-weed?—I know that some of them used it, but very little.

834. You have gone through about 12 townlands to day, have you not?—I have.

835. Can you tell the Committee now how many families upon those 12 townlands were in the habit of using sea-weed in 1854?—I could not name them.

836. When did you first observe the great change that took place in the food of the people?—I observed it last year very much.

837. That was after the levy of the county cess of 1857, was it not?—Yes.

838. Was it then for the first time that you observed a considerable change?—I considered that it changed from the time that the rents were raised, and from that on to the time that the taxes began.

839. I am speaking now of the period before the levy of the county cess of the summer assizes of 1857; when first did you observe any considerable change take place in the food of the people?—I considered about two years ago a change took place in the food of the people.

840. Was it occasioned, in your opinion, by the increase of rents and taking away the grazing?—Yes, it was.

841. You had not observed any diminution in their stock of cattle before the summer of 1857?—There was a dimiution since the rents were raised and the mountains taken away.

842. Was there a gradual diminution?—Yes.

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843. Did you find them less able to pay their rents?—I did. I thought that they would not be able to pay it at all.

844. And did you communicate that to Lord George Hill?—I did not. I had a letter from Lord George Hill.

845. Did you communicate to Lord George Hill that the rents were too high, and that the people were becoming unable to pay them?—I did not do that; he was the landlord and I the servant.

846. Does he live in the district himself?—No, he does not; he lives at some place about Dublin at the time before that; while the hubble of the big rent was going on, Lord George Hill was in the place I believe called Black Rock.

847. Had he resided there up to that time?—He resided there till the rents were raised.

848. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] How long were you bailiff to Lord George Hill?—I cannot say positively how many years.

849. How long was your father bailiff?—Since Lord George Hill became the landlord.

850. How long had you been assistant to your father?—I never was assistant bailiff; there was a bailiff dismissed, and I was then appointed.

851. You were educated at Templemore School, were you not?—I was.

852. You were educated by Lord George Hill, at his expense, were you not?—Yes; he paid so much a year for it, and I had to labour for the rest.

853. When Lord George Hill bought this property, you recollect the tenants were before on what was called Rundale?—I do not know what you mean by Rundale.

854. When Lord George Hill came there, he made a considerable alteration in the holdings, did he not?—He made it into cuts in this way.

855. When he made it into cuts he reserved a large portion of mountain in his own hands, did he not?—I do not know that, but I know that the people had the commonage of the mountains to within three or four years ago, till they were taken by the Scotchmen.

856. You do not know whether he retained a large portion of the mountain consisting of some thousands of acres in his own hands, besides what he had let to the tenants, although you were bailiff at the time?—No.

857. Do you know whether he laid off a large quantity, amounting to some thousands of acres, for the use of the tenants?—I heard that he said so.

858. Do you know whether his Lordship had herds upon that portion of mountain which I ask you his Lordship retained in his own hands?—They have herds there now.

859. I am speaking of the time when he divided the property, and retained this mountain in his own hands; had his Lordship any herd or herds there at that time?—I do not know whether he had or not.

860. You say that you do not know whether there was any herd there belonging to Lord George Hill?—Yes, I do.

861. You do not know whether Lord George Hill occupied that mountain, by letting it for grazing, independently of the mountain used by the tenants?—I do not know what he did with it at all now.

862. At any time after it was divided, shortly after he came to the property, was there any portion of that large extent of mountain retained in his own occupation?—If there was, I never knew it. I never knew him to have any herd upon the mountain till within the last three or four years.

863. Who paid the cess for that?—I was collecting cess in 1855 and 1856, and he paid me then or the land steward.

864. Upon that particular portion of the mountain that I am speaking of, did Lord George Hill pay cess for that portion which is let to the Scotchmen?—I do not believe he did. He has cut off one of the mountains, and enclosed it with fences, and I consider it was for that he was paying the county cess; but not for the mountain. He occupies a farm there.

865. I am speaking of the large district of mountain amounting to some thousands of acres; did he, or did he not, before the Scotchmen came, hold that in his own hand independently of the grazing allowed to the tenants?—I do not know anything about that.

866. But he may or may not for all that you know?—He may or may not.

867. Who gave the people liberty of grazing?—They never were prevented.

868. They

868. They grazed where they liked?—Yes.

869. You do not know whether Lord George Hill held in occupation or not?—I cannot say that.

870. *Chairman.*] Had Lord George Hill cattle there of his own?—He had at a place he has taken up in a farm.

871. I want to know this, had Lord George Hill cattle grazing on any particular part of this mountain that the tenants had cattle grazing over?—I do not know.

872. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Do you not recollect some time ago a large number of sheep from the Rosses straying on the mountain of Tor, and impounded there by the order of Lord George Hill?—I do not know whether they were impounded by order of Lord George Hill or not.

873. They were impounded, were they not?—Three or four years ago there were sheep impounded there.

874. On the same mountain of Tor?—Yes.

875. Do you consider that Lord George Hill was exercising any right over the mountain by impounding those sheep or not?—I considered that it was the Scotchman that was impounding the sheep.

876. That was before the Scotchmen came?—I believe that the Scotchmen were there at the time that they were impounded, for I was out about it myself on the mountain.

877. You state that you do not know whether or not Lord George Hill had any mountain in his own hands?—No, I do not.

878. With regard to those new cuts, you stated that the rents of Lord George Hill were raised about four years ago?—I did; I am not sure whether it was three or four years ago.

879. Are you aware or not, that a part of that rise is made up by the fact of the new cuts for the first time coming under rent?—I do not understand that.

880. When the man gets a new cut, he gets it for a term, say of eight or ten years?—Yes, for the present.

881. Suppose it to be eight, or ten, or seven years, at the expiration of that number of years he comes under rent, does he not?—He does.

882. Are you aware that, at the time those rents were raised, those seven years or ten years had expired, and the new cuts therefore came under rent, giving it the appearance of a rise of rent?—I say that the rents were raised, and that the old tenants got no reduction in any way.

883. You are not aware of that fact?—I do not understand it.

884. In making those new cuts, do new tenants come into the place, or are they generally accompanied by the sons of the tenants adjoining?—New tenants came in on some of them.

885. Will you tell the names of the new tenants that have come from other parts of the country upon those new cuts?—I can tell one; Charles Donnell came from the Rosses, and took a new cut.

886. When was that?—Eight or nine years ago.

887. Can you tell me any other?—Paddy Sharkey.

888. Where did he come from?—From the Rosses.

889. Can you tell me another?—I can tell you Paddy O'Donnell.

890. Can you tell me any more of those who came as strangers from other parts of the country into the new cuts?—I can; I know one named Mooney.

891. Where did he come from?—He is from the Rosses.

892. Do you know of many more from the Rosses?—I do not.

893. Were those men that you have mentioned sons-in-law or relations to the owners of the farms where the cuts were made; did they marry the daughters of the farmers adjoining?—They did not.

894. Are any of those cuts vacant long after they are cut out before there are applications made for them?—Some of them are for some time vacant.

895. Are they all occupied now?—They are not.

896. How many are unoccupied?—I cannot say.

897. There are probably not many unoccupied?—I cannot say.

898. You do not know any of those cuts coming under rent, for the first time, at the time that the general rate was raised?—I know that in the case of the cuts that were made two years ago the rent was told upon the spot at the time that they were made.

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899. My question refers to the rent of the cuts coming in to be paid; are you aware when the rent was paid?—The rent was paid in this townland of Meenanillar before the rents were advanced.

900. With regard to the advance of the rents, can you say that they were raised from a certain sum to a certain sum?—I do say so.

901. Does that include the grazing and arable, were they valued together, or were you giving the Committee the rent of the grazing only?—I was giving the rent of the farms.

902. Including the arable land?—The rents of the present farms, but it did not include any of those new cuts.

903. With regard to the sea-weed, are you aware or not that sea-weed was ever used by the people before the year 1854, before the time that the rents were raised?—It was used in very small quantities to what it has been since.

904. You used just now the word "kitchen;" "kitchen" means something to flavour other food, does it not?—It does.

905. When they have no what you call kitchen, which is something to flavour the potatoes, they use that sea-weed?—They use it just to prolong their food, and make it go further.

906. You are aware that there are many kinds of sea-weed which are collected and sold in the interior of the country?—This is not sold.

907. Are you aware that any kind of sea-weed is sold?—I am aware that there is some sea-weed sold in the towns.

908. Are not some kinds of moss, which is collected upon the sea-shore, sold in the towns?—I am not aware of it.

909. All that you know is, that they use a certain quantity of sea-weed as "kitchen?"—They use it to prolong their food.

910. You have known it used more or less ever since you have been in the district?—I have known it used more for the last two years than ever before.

911. Do most of the poor people, more or less, use it?—The greater part of the people.

912. You told the Committee that Shame Mulligan used it?—I did.

913. You stated that he had several head of cattle?—That is another Shame Mulligan.

914. This Shame Mulligan that you spoke of before does not use the sea-weed, does he?—He does not as much as others.

915. He does use it occasionally?—He does.

916. He would be put down as one of the people using sea-weed occasionally?—He would take some of it.

917. But he has seven head of cattle, according to your account?—I said three cows and two stirks.

918. It was not from absolute poverty that he was using sea-weed?—He was just as much using it in the same way as a poorer man.

919. Still he had five head of cattle?—They belonged to his children, and those children would rather starve before they would give the liberty of selling their cattle; they would keep them, in order to enable them to go out to America some time or another.

920. Mr. *Dobbs.*] How old are the children?—From 12 to 20 years of age.

921. Has each of them a head of cattle?—Yes; they go to hire at an early age, and earn money to buy a cow.

922. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You speak of the great potato failure last year more than in previous years; do you know the price of potatoes at present in that district?—I do not know that they are selling any at present.

923. Do you not know whether there were any exported lately?—There was not one exported.

924. From Bunbeg or any of the ports in the neighbourhood, were any exported?—A vessel came, but she could not get any in that district; at least not to my knowledge; I believe she did not get one.

925. You spoke of Lord George Hill not allowing any baker in the district except his own?—I did.

926. Was it the fact or not, that there were two attempts to set up bakeries, and both of them failed; and when Lord George Hill came, he set up one?—I am not aware of it.

927. All that you know is, that he had one?—Yes, and that one is there yet.

928. In the case of those people that you were sent to warn who had set up bakeries

bakeries in their houses, will you state to the Committee that it was or was not done to interfere with Lord George Hill's bakery, or that he was not pleased at their subdividing their houses and land?—I wish to state that it was in order to prevent that baker from being in opposition to that other man; that I was told, and I believe so.

929. Did you get any instructions to that effect?—I say that that is my present belief.

930. Had you any instructions to that effect from either Lord George Hill or his bailiff or his agent?—I was generally warned from the under-agent when I was in his service to discharge those messages, and any order that I received I would go and tell the people.

931. That was, where they entered into any other house, or where there was a subdivision?—Where there was an attempt to set up any opposition.

932. You stated that with regard to Lord George Hill's shop also, which he set up for the convenience of the neighbourhood, he would not allow of any interference; can you say how many shops there are in the district?—I just cannot number the shops.

933. Are there 20 in the whole district?—No.

934. Are there 10?—No, I believe not.

935. Are there eight?—There may be about eight dealers.

936. What steps did Lord George Hill take to put them down?—I cannot answer that question, because I was never sent to them.

937. Has he taken any steps?—He has taken another step.

938. There are eight shops, and you have stated that Lord George Hill would not allow of any interference or rivalry with his shops; will you now state what steps he has taken to put down those eight shops?—I will not answer the question in that way.

939. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do you know of any steps having been taken, of any sort or kind, to put down those shops, either by his Lordship or his agent; will you answer either yes or no?—No; I do not know of any steps.

940. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You stated just now that the women in the district were unable to pursue their occupation of knitting any longer because they had no sheep; are you aware or not that there was 600*l.* worth of stockings sold last year from that district?—I am not; I know that they are reduced, and that they are deprived of their way of living.

941. Supposing that was the fact, you would not then say that there was no wool to be had?—I would say that there is very little wool; I would not say there is no wool at all, but there was very little to be had.

942. With regard to the high rents, supposing that the outrages had never been committed upon the sheep, and that there had been no sheep tax, would the people have been reduced by the high rents to the state in which they now are?—They would be more reduced than what they used to be.

943. And yet, if I understand you rightly, you stated that you collected the rents without any difficulty; for three years there was no distraint except in two or three cases, and that distraint was not followed up as the cattle were not sold; is that the case?—The cattle were taken, but they used to borrow the money to get them out.

944. I am speaking now of the rent, not of the tax; they paid the rent, did they not?—They had to pay the rent.

945. There was no necessity for three years for driving any cattle away except in five or six cases?—I was there, not last year, but the season before.

946. I am speaking of the time from 1854 up to 1857, the time when the tax was laid on; during that time, as I understand you, the rents were paid freely and completely, without coercion or without distraint?—They had to borrow the money, and they paid the rent; they borrowed the money at 4*s.* in the pound. I know that they paid that interest for it, sometimes 20 per cent.; and one man paid 25 per cent.

947. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Was this man a tenant of Lord George Hill?—He is not.

948. Was he a tenant of his Lordship?—He was in former times.

949. When did he cease to be a tenant?—I cannot say.

950. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] I understood you to say, that the people, up to the summer of 1857, were pretty well off with regard to bedding, bedclothes, and bedsteads; I want to know whether they were obliged to sell their bedding, as

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you say they have none now?—Some of them were obliged to sell their body clothes, and the clothes that they had on their beds.

951. I am now speaking of bedding and bed-furniture in their houses. You stated that they had a pretty fair share of it up to 1857; I want to know whether, in consequence of the pressure of the tax, they had been obliged to sell their bedclothes and bed furniture?—Yes.

952. If so, will you tell me the names of the people who sold their beds and bedsteads?—I cannot say that; I will not answer that question; I say here is one who was obliged to sell his body clothes and the quilts off the bed.

953. Who was that?—Hugh Connaghan was one, and Widow Hannah Gallagher sold two rugs.

954. When?—That was last year.

955. At what time?—I cannot say.

956. How do you know that she sold them?—She told me that she did.

957. Did she tell you what she sold them for?—To pay the taxes.

958. What time last year was that?—Since the 1st of August.

959. Have you names of any others who sold their bedclothes, bedsteads, and bedding?—I did not go into the particulars.

960. Will you state to the Committee how you account for this, that up to the year 1857, they had an abundance or a fair share of bedclothes, bedsteads, and bedding, according to your account; now they have none; and yet that they have not sold them, so far as you are aware; what has become of them?—They are worn out.

961. You stated in your examination, that the whole of those families in the different townlands, amounting to 10 or 12 townlands, had little or no bedding in any one case?—I did not state that they sold them, but that they were reduced to such a degree, that they had no bedclothes.

962. If they had plenty up to 1857, and they have none now, how do you account for that?—I know it from my own general knowledge throughout the country, collecting the county cess; they looked a great deal better than they do now.

963. You cannot account for it?—I can only account for it in that way.

964. Mr. *Maguire.*] Would not such bedclothes as they have wear out in three years?—Yes.

965. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Used the people in that country to make blankets?—Yes, in former times.

966. Up to the time when they lost the sheep?—Yes, up to the time when they lost the sheep.

967. Do you consider that three years was the utmost that a pair of good blankets would wear?—I would consider that three years would wear out a blanket.

968. Do you know what the price of turf-cutting by the hundred is this year? I do not know anything about hundred cutting; it is all done by the day.

969. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Had you ever any dispute or quarrel with Lord George Hill?—No, I had not, till he dismissed me.

970. Had you when he dismissed you?—I do not know what you mean by quarrelling.

971. You know what a dispute is between an employer and his bailiff; had you any dispute?—I had not.

972. You stated, did you not, in answer to some questions, that you thought that the people were worse off this year than they were in 1848?—So they were.

973. Mr. *Maguire.*] Will you just look at that *(handing a specimen of sea-weed to the Witness)*; is that the sea-weed that is commonly used, or is it a better kind?—That is the kind that is commonly used.

974. Is it a fact that the people sometimes do not boil this sea-weed much, in order that it may be rougher and stronger, and that it may fill them the more?—That is positively the fact; they do not boil it sometimes so much as they do at other times, because it makes it go stronger with a potato.

975. Did you ever hear of a gentleman going into the Gweedore Hotel, and ordering a dish of dolamaun for dinner?—No.

976. Lord *Naas.*] Do you recollect the years 1848 and 1849; the famine years?—Yes, I do.

977. What was the state of the population of the district then?—The state of the district was good, only they were a little brought down that year.

978. Do

978. Do you think that they are worse off now than they were then?—I do.

979. Did you ever hear of anybody going to the poorhouse in 1848 and 1849 from Gweedore?—I did.

980. Do you know how many?—No.

981. Were there more that went to the poorhouse in 1848 and 1849, in the union of Dunfanaghy, than in the last two years?—I do not know that.

982. Would you be very much surprised to hear that from some of the electoral divisions in this district there is no one in the poorhouse?—That may be, but the reason is, that if they do go into the poorhouse, the landlords will put them out, and they make them stick to the piece of land that they have.

983. Still they had not the same objection in 1848 and 1849; they used to go in then?—I believe they were bringing them out; they would not allow them in the poorhouse then too.

984. Did you ever hear of anybody being refused relief in the poorhouse who applied for it during the 20 years that you have known the district?—I know a family that was in the workhouse, and was obliged to be put out; the bailiff was obliged to go and bring them home from the poorhouse, and they let them beg through the country, and a woman that was their grandmother was threatened to be ejected; but there was some informality in the ejectment, and it was then dismissed, and the children had to go about begging.

985. You do not know that anybody was refused?—There was a family that was refused, and they had to come back; their father and mother were in America, and they had no one to do for them.

986. What was the name of those people?—Doherty.

987. They could have had no land?—No.

988. When were they refused relief in the poorhouse of Dunfanaghy; what year was it?—I do not recollect the year, but I know it to be the fact, for I saw the man bringing them out of the workhouse.

989. Were they turned out of the workhouse by order of the guardians, or did they go out of their own accord?—They did not go out at all of their own accord, they were turned out of it.

990. You do not recollect the year?—I do not recollect the year.

991. Was it three, or four, or five years ago?—About three or four years ago.

992. Did you ever hear any complaint that they did not get enough to eat in the workhouse?—I did.

993. Do you think from what you hear that they have not enough to eat?—I think it is scanty.

994. Do you think they get more in the workhouse than they get usually in their own cabins?—What they were getting in the workhouse, I think, was no great things.

995. They do not get any sea-weed in the workhouse, do they?—I do not say anything about that.

996. You never heard them complain that they did not get enough to eat in the workhouse?—I did not.

997. Do you know the electoral divisions of the district?—I do.

998. Is the electoral division of Magheraclogher in the Gweedore district?—It is.

999. Are any of the townlands in the division of Magheraclogher?—Yes.

1000. Would you be surprised to hear that there is no one from that division in the workhouse?—I would not be surprised if they say it, because they would not be admitted because of their little holdings.

1001. Is Meenacladdy in the Gweedore district?—It is.

1002. Is that on Lord George Hill's estate?—No, on Mr. Woodhouse's.

1003. Would you be surprised to know that there is no one in the workhouse of that place?—I have not much acquaintance with it.

1004. Where is Gortahork?—It is nearer the workhouse.

1005. But not in the district as to which you have been examined?—No.

1006. With regard to the dress of those people, do you recollect the state of their dress in 1848 and 1849?—I recollect that they were far better dressed then than they are now.

1007. Did you ever see them so badly dressed as they are now?—I never saw them so badly dressed as what they were last year.

1008. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Can you tell the Committee what the dress consisted of?—The dress consisted of old rags and cotton.

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1009. Was there a petticoat?—Some of them had no petticoats, because they could not buy them.

1010. They had some clothing, had they not?—They had just what they call little gowns of old cotton that they used to buy.

1011. Will you tell me whether the very worst dressed woman or child had one?—They have some drugget and tammy.

1012. Was it in the shape of a petticoat, or was it only a piece of cloth tied round the body?—The sleeves were bare up to the arm.

1013 How low did it go, did it go down to the knees?—It went below the knees a little.

1014. Was that the only garment that they had?—It was the only garment they had; some had a handkerchief on their necks, some had not, and some had some cotton skirts underneath.

1015. Is not that another garment; I want you to tell me how much clothing one of those ill dressed women, girls, or children had upon them?—She had some of that cotton upon her.

1016. What else?—I could see nothing upon them but that; I could not put my hand upon them to examine what was under it; I believe they had nothing under this drugget petticoat.

1017. What do you say about the shirt?—Some of them that were not so badly clothed had them.

1018. How was it with the worse clothed?—It was in the way I have described.

1019. Had they no cloak?—No cloak and no shoes.

1020. Lord *Naas.*] Do you recollect the state of the district in the famine times of 1849 and 1850, did you ever hear of any people having fever then?—There was fever in every place.

1021. Did you notice it particularly at those times?—I did not notice it particularly.

1022. There was not much illness or fever in 1848 and 1849 about Gweedore more than in other year, was there?—There was a little more that year than in former years.

1023. With regard to typhus fever, and other descriptions of fever, was there much of that in that district in those days?—There was not very much in the district.

1024. Was there any last summer?—I believe there is fever every summer.

1025. Was there more last summer than there usually is?—I will not say that.

1026. Is there any illness there now among the people?—I cannot say anything about the sickness now.

1027. You do not think the state of the district during this spring has been more unhealthy than it usually is?—I will not say anything about that.

1028. You state that you were dismissed by Lord George Hill's agent from being bailiff?—I was put out of my place that I lived in.

1029. Do you mean that you were put out of your house?—Yes.

1030. What was the cause of that?—Because I would not undertake to collect the taxes for him.

1031. What tax?—The police tax was the first.

1032. You were not collecting the police tax for Lord George Hill, were you?—No, but he and his agent wanted me to collect it.

1033. Did they ask you to collect it?—They did.

1034. Who asked you?—Lord George Hill, and Mr. Foster, and Mr. Roberts, the under agent.

1035. That was as barony collector?—I was acting as district collector.

1036. I want to undertand this; in collecting this police tax, or county cess, you were not acting for Lord George Hill, were you?—I was not.

1037. Whom were you acting for?—I was collecting money for the county at so much in the pound.

1038. Had you any dispute with the agent about anything connected with the estate, or with your own duties?—At the time I took the collection of the county cess, the agent promised me 1 *s.* 6 *d.* in the pound, which he did not pay me, as long as I would continue it, but I told him I would not collect at 1 *s.* in the pound.

1039. I am talking about the rent; had you any dispute with Lord George Hill's agent, with regard to your duties as bailiff to the estate?—I had not.

1040. Was

1040. Was he quite satisfied with everything that you did?—He was.

1041. He did not complain of anything?—We were on good enough terms up to that time.

1042. You have stated to the Committee that the sole reason you were dismissed was, that you refused to collect the police tax?—Yes.

1043. Did you collect the sheep tax?—No, I did not.

1044. Did you collect any portion of it?—I did not collect any portion of it. I was offered 2*s.* 6*d.* by Head-constable Young, to collect the police tax; but I would not take the collection of it at all.

1045. *Chairman.*] You were the under barony cess collector?—I was acting under the treasurer alone. I passed security before the magistrates, and I had no barony collector over me. At that time the barony collector was dismissed, for something.

1046. Lord *Naas.*] How long had you been collecting cess?—I was collecting two years in succession, up to the spring assizes of 1857.

1047. Why did not you continue after that?—I told the grand jury, at the assizes, that I would resign before I would undertake it. They wanted to make it appear that they would compel me to collect it, and I thought it would be impossible for me to collect it, and I would not undertake it at all. My conscience checked me, and I would not do it.

1048. *Chairman.*] Did you give security for collecting the county cess?—I did always, while I continued it.

1049. Lord *Naas.*] You state that you resigned your office to the grand jury in the spring assizes of 1857; when was it that the grand jury put on the sheep tax; was it at the spring assizes of 1857, or the summer assizes of 1857?—It was at the summer assizes of 1857.

1050. Still you resigned your office at the spring assizes?—Yes; because the police tax came in the spring, and when the warrant from the Lord Lieutenant was handed to me by a policeman, I said I would not collect it, and I would not take it in hand. I tendered him the letter, and he would not take it; I then brought it to the sub-inspector, and he would not take it, and then I brought it to the grand jury, and they would not take it.

1051. You resigned your situation as collector in the spring of 1857, because you told the grand jury that you could not collect the police tax?—Yes.

1052. Mr. *Maguire.*] That was the sole cause of your leaving Lord George Hill?—That was the sole cause; there was nothing but that.

1053. Will you state to the Committee the reason why the people are unwilling to go into the workhouse?—The reason they are unwilling is, that they would not get in unless they would give up their lands; their lands would be taken from them, and they are kept upon their land to pay the rents, and that is the very reason.

1054. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Was that the law in the years of the famine or not; was not there the same law then as there is now?—I do not know anything about that.

1055. If there was the same law, how do you account for the house being partially full then, and there being nobody in it now?—I do not account for it that it was full at any time.

1056. Supposing it was partially full at that time, and that there is nobody now, and the same rules of admission existed, how can you account for that; because now the country is, as you state, in a much greater state of destitution?—I will not account for it.

1057. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Was any out-door relief given in 1847 and 1848?—Yes, there was; the Board of Works gave some relief, I believe, in 1848.

1058. Mr. *Maguire.*] You are process-server now, are you not?—I am; I was threatened to be dismissed from that too by the agent.

1059. Do you say that you think you have a moral right to get a character from Lord George Hill?—I do say that I have.

1060. There is nothing against you which would prevent him from giving you a character, except your refusal to collect the tax?—No.

1061. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Did Lord George Hill suppose that you had sympathy in any way with those sheepstealers, as you refused to collect the tax?—I do not believe he did.

1062. Was anybody connected with you charged with being one of the persons

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concerned in stealing sheep?—There was a brother of mine charged with it falsely.

1063. He was in gaol, was he not?—He was so.

1064. And therefore the inference was drawn that you might have had some sympathy with the outrage?—I had no sympathy with it.

1065. Mr. *Maguire.*] Were you not dismissed before that man was charged?—I was dismissed before he was charged.

1066. Mr. *Dobbs.*] When was he charged?—In October last, and I was dismissed in the spring of that year.

1067. What became of the charge?—The prisoners all got out on application to the Court of Queen's Bench, and they were admitted to bail; they were not brought to trial.

1068. Is your brother out upon bail now for this charge?—He is.

1069. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Do you state positively that the tenants of Lord George Hill upon those different townlands have no grazing now at all?—They have no grazing at all, except the ridges, small patches that lie waste from one season to another, and along the highways, and sometimes they are summoned by the police for having their cattle on the highways.

1070. Have they no grazing except along the roadside?—They have not, except that, and the little spots of waste upon the farms.

1071. There is no piece of mountain, be it more or less, that is laid off for the grazing of the tenants of those townlands, amounting to some hundreds of acres?—That is said, but I do not know anything about it; I believe if I sent my cow to the mountain, it would very soon be in the pound.

1072. I ask you, do you know whether those tenants have any grazing, and you say that you do not know?—No; they have not the grazing that they had.

1073. Lord *Naas.*] Where are you living now?—I am living in Magheraclogher.

1074. Whose estate are you living on?—Lord George Hill's.

1075. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You mentioned something about relief, and that the people were very badly off until the relief came; what did you mean?—I mean that they got meal, and bedclothes, and wearing clothes.

1076. Have you anything to do with the distribution of that relief?—I have.

1077. Can you state to the Committee on what rules it is distributed, or are there any rules?—It is distributed generally to the poorest of the people.

1078. Are you employed in any way by those who contributed that relief?—I am.

1079. Are you the secretary, or what are you?—I kept a list of the people who got relief.

1080. You have that list, have you not?—I have.

1081. Have you it with you now?—No.

1082. Have you any salary?—I have no fixed salary.

1083. Do you get any pay for your duty in helping to distribute this fund?—I do of course.

1084. What pay do you get?—I have no fixed salary.

1085. Have you any pay?—I have as yet.

1086. How much?—I have got upwards of 5 *l.*

1087. How long have you been employed?—I am employed since the month of February.

1088. You say that you have received upwards of 5*l.*; does it go as far as 10 *l.*?—No.

1089. How much upwards of 5 *l.*?—It goes upwards of 5 *l.*, and I have had my expenses, as much as would bring me here.

1090. What have you received for your services in distributing the fund?—I do not mind.

1091. *Chairman.*] Did you get 6 *l.*?—No.

1092. Lord *Naas.*] For how long were you appointed?—I was employed every day since February in it, endeavouring to serve the people.

1093. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You have been employed in distributing food and clothes?—Yes.

1094. And you state that you have been employed every day almost since bruary last?—Nearly.

Jovis, 10° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bagwell.
Sir John Yarde Buller.
Mr. Serjeant Deasy.
Mr. Dobbs.
Sir Edmund Hayes.
Mr. Maguire.
Mr. Philip Wykeham Martin.
Lord Naas.
Sir Wm. Somerville.

JOHN BAGWELL, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. *John Browne*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *John Browne*.

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1095. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] WHERE do you live?—I live at Londonderry.

1096. What is your profession; are you connected with the press?—Yes, I am reporter and general manager of the "Londonderry Journal."

1097. Did you visit the district of Gweedore at any time?—I did.

1098. What time did you go there?—I visited it the first time in December 1857.

1099. How long did you remain there on that occasion?—I was only two days in the district, denominated Cloughaneely and Gweedore.

1100. Did you visit it after that?—I did.

1101. When?—In May of the present year.

1102. How long did you remain there then?—I remained a fortnight on that occasion.

1103. During either of your visits did you examine into the state and condition of the houses of the peasantry?—I did.

1104. On which occasion?—On both occasions; I was so directed by the proprietor and editor of the paper to make enquiries. On my first visit I did not go officially; I went as a traveller for the paper on the first occasion.

1105. On the second occasion you were directed, were you not, to make enquiries?—Yes, by the editor.

1106. Did you make any notes?—Yes, I did.

1107. Have you those notes with you?—Yes, I have.

1108. Perhaps you would state to the Committee, from your notes, what portions of the district you examined, how many houses you entered into, what you saw yourself, and the condition of the people as to food and clothing?—On the first time that I visited Gweedore, after remaining one night at the hotel, I started in the morning to Derrybeg, said to be the chief scene of destitution, and on my way there and on my return to the hotel again, I visited three or four houses by the wayside; that was in the latter part of December 1857. I have not the date of the first visit; but I know that it was about that time.

1109. Can you state how many houses you went into on that occasion?—Three houses.

1110. What townland were they on?—Meenanillar was the name given to me.

1111. In what condition did you find the people in those houses?—I considered them to be in a destitute condition; but not so much so as they were on my subsequent visit.

1112. What traces of destitution did you see on your first visit?—Very scanty furniture and bed clothes.

1113. Did you see what food they were using on that occasion?—No, I did not.

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1114. Will you come to the period of your second visit, in May and state what you observed?—I arrived at Cloughaneely on Saturday the 1st day of May. I attended the Roman Catholic chapel of Gortahork on Sunday the 2d: there were about 2,000 persons, I should think, in the congregation, and I am certain not more than one half of them had coats to their back, some of them were barefooted, and the women in particular were very scantily clothed.

1115. Did you go to any portions of the district?—I visited 32 houses that evening in townlands of Upper and Lower Keeldrum, Meendarry, and some others.

1116. You say you entered into 32 houses?—Yes.

1117. Will you describe to the Committee the condition in which you found the people in those houses?—I found them in a very destitute condition; there was the case of James M'Fadden; he had eight in family, and he had no cow; he had an old horse of some kind, but the horse seemed to be in a dying state, the appearance of the family was so very destitute that I could scarcely believe how they could live at all in such a place: they had been using sea-weed; I saw sea-weed in the house; there was scarcely any furniture; there was a pot, but no table or chairs, and the bed was very bad; there was one blanket on the bed, but it was so full of holes that I have seen sometimes nearly as good flannel sold as rags.

1118. Do those observations apply to the 32 houses?—I have witnessed worse cases than James M'Fadden's; his house seemed, externally, better than other houses, while internally it was not worse; in fact it was better than a good many of them.

1119. Will you describe those that were worse than James M'Fadden's?—Michael Carrolin's was worse; this man had a cow's grass of land, his rent originally was 5*s.*, it was raised to 15*s.*; and I find, on referring to the Government valuation, that it was only valued at 2*s.*

1120. In what condition did you find him and his family?—I found six in family and no cow, no provisions, and they had had no potatoes since before Christmas; the potatoes had failed in the neighbourhood; there was no bed, nothing but a straw layer on some stones, and no bed clothes, and this man seemed perfectly poverty-stricken; he occupied a little layer at the fire, and he said he was so weak that he expected to die; and solemnly, as if on his death bed, averred that he had not a taste of food in the house but a half stone of potatoes and some sea-weed.

1121. Was that the property of Mr. Wybrants Olphert?—Yes.

1122. Were the other 31 houses that you inspected nearly in a similar condition, in Magheraclogher?—Some were even worse; in one house there was a man and his young wife and child, who lived in a hut not more than six or seven feet high, and nine feet by eight; there was no furniture in the house; the only seat that they offered to us to sit down upon was a few sods; and the only kind of bed was a few sods laid down on the floor, and some little straw thrown over them; this man, I should say, was a labouring man.

1123. What was that man's name?—John Ferry.

1124. The next day, Monday, the 3d of May, did you visit any more?—I did.

1125. How many?—I think about a dozen on my way to Gweedore.

1126. In what condition were they?—I found some of them better off than the others, but not so much so as would lead me to think that they were not suffering from the excess of taxation. I should say that the tenants on the estate of Mr. Wybrants Olphert have suffered so much from taxation as from the taking away of the mountain pasture lands, and the raising of the rents.

1127. On what estate were those families living that you visited on Monday, the 3d of May 1858?—Mr. Wybrants Olpherts', and some, I think, on Lord George Hill's estate, but I am not sure of that; Fannabuoy, I believe, is the townland.

1128. Did you on that day, or the following, visit any more families in Gweedore?—The following day I visited other families in Gweedore.

1129. How many did you visit?—I visited, I think, about 20 or 30 the next day. Altogether I visited about 50 families in Upper and Lower Dore, Middletown, Magheralosk, and Magheraclogher.

1130. On whose estate?—On Lord George Hill's.

1131. Will you describe to the Committee the condition in which you found those 50 families which you visited on those days?—In nearly every instance they seemed to be in utter destitution, especially as far as bed and body clothes were concerned. Some of them had cows, but very few, only one or two; but those cows, they represented to me, were purchased by the children, who had been away

at

at the Laggan and other places hired out, and they sent the cows there to graze; and in other instances some parties from other places had sent them a cow to graze on a little patch of land for the milk that she gave.

1132. Had they any sheep?—Very few.

1133. Did you observe the clothing of the women?—I did.

1134. In what state was it?—The women were very destitute of clothing, comparing them with those in other places.

1135. Were they decently clad?—They were not, in some instances, even decently clad, nor sufficiently clad at all for the purposes of decency.

1136. What food did you observe they were living on?—Sea-weed; and it invariably occurred that on asking any questions about it they laughed, as if to say that it was a foolish question to ask; for, as the women said, they would be glad to get even sea-weed, if they could procure it, but there had been latterly a restriction put upon their using it, and they complained very much of that; they said that they were deprived of the liberty of taking the sea-weed away. In some cases I found some part of the families sleeping in the open day, and, on inquiry, I found that some of the children had been obliged to go out at night to bring in the sea-weed, as they could not bring it in by daylight.

1137. Had they potatoes?—In some instances they had potatoes, but in many cases they said that they purchased the potatoes with some little money that the females made by knitting wool which they had purchased.

1138. You state that you found them living on sea-weed; you do not mean exclusively so?—No, not exclusively; but I went into several houses and found some of the sea-weed, a sample of which was shown to the Committee the other day, being made up into meals, and I found in many instances that it was boiled in the pot, some meal poured over it, a mess thus made of it, and in other instances that they used it with potatoes.

1139. Did you ascertain what stock of potatoes they had?—Their stock varied greatly. In some instances they had not more than a stone; in some instances not even that, and in other instances they had a barrel, but very few had more than a barrel; and I should say that some of those potatoes at the time that I was there in May, had been purchased with the money that had been given to them by the Relief Committee, in order to crop their little patches of ground.

1140. What quality of potatoes were they?—I could not say from the appearance of the potatoes in a raw state, but I observed the potatoes that were boiled, and I should say that they were a very bad sticky kind of potato, and not at all good.

1141. Did you ascertain from inquiry whether there had been any failure of the potato crop in the district?—Yes; there has not been more than a third of the usual crop in Cloughaneely, I have been told. I did not make so many enquiries about that in Gweedore.

1142. Did you ascertain whether there had been any increase of their rents?—I did, and I found in every townland that there had been an increase of rent; and I have instances here of many men who were in what was called comfortable circumstances by their neighbours, but who were in a very bad condition in consequence of this increase.

1143. In what proportion had the rents increased; were they half, or one third, or one fourth?—It was generally about 8*s.* 4*d.* increase in a cow's grass, as near as I could ascertain. In the case of Paddy M'Ilwain, his old rent was 1*l.* 6*s.*, which was raised to 2*l.*, he paid the sheep tax, 2*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*, and police tax, 1*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* The Government valuation was 1*l.*

1144. What do you mean by the Government valuation?—It is to be seen, on referring to Griffith's valuation, his name is there placed opposite to his holding.

1145. Did you ascertain from inquiry whether there had been persons worse off in 1858 than they were in 1848?—They said so themselves. There was a respectable-looking old man named Boyle, and he said they were worse off in 1858 than they were in 1848; and he accounted for it in this way: he said that they had some stock then, and that they were enabled to bring stock from other localities to graze on the mountains, but that they had no stock now nor could they bring any.

1146. Did they account to you for the diminution in their stock?—They did; they said it was owing to the mountain pasture lands having been taken from them, and their having to sell their stock in a great many cases to meet the taxation.

1147. *Chairman.*] You stated that the rent was raised to 2*l.*, and you said that the sheep tax was 2*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*, the police tax 1*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*; that would make 5*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*

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5*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* for the taxation and the rent, and the Government valuation was 1*l.*?—Yes.

1148. Lord *Naas.*] What townland was this in?—In Middle-dore.

1149. In what parish?—I think it was Gweedore or West Tullaghobegby; I am not quite sure of the name of the parish.

1150. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] How many of those 50 families were labourers?—I should say not more than a dozen in the 50 families; that is to say, labourers in profession, having no other means of subsistence—not landholders.

1151. Can you tell the Committee why those dozen people did not go into the poorhouse?—I saw that they were evidently disinclined to go to the poorhouse.

1152. Why?—Some of them complained of the dietary there from reports that they had heard, and others said that so long as they were permitted to live in those little huts, they expected to support their families by going to Scotland in some seasons and earning some money there and coming home again.

1153. Then those 12 families who were in such destitution as to be living almost entirely upon sea-weed, refused to go to the poorhouse because they had heard that the dietary was not good enough?—In some instances that was the reply.

1154. There was one district that you visited on the 3d of May, where you said that they did not suffer so much from taxation?—On Sunday the 2d, I visited the district of Cloughaneely, and they did not suffer from taxation so much as from the raising of the rents; I believe that that district was not included in the taxation; some portion of Mr. Olphert's estate was not cessed, I believe.

1155. Can you state from your own knowledge that this state of destitution which you describe arose mainly from the taxation?—I should say unhesitatingly that it did arise mainly from that, and from the mountain pastures having been taken away; I should lay more stress upon the mountain pastures having been taken being taken away, because it deprived them of their only means of keeping sheep.

1156. The mountain pasture land you know nothing of from your own knowledge, but simply from what you have heard in the district?—Simply from what I have heard in the district.

1157. You have no knowledge whether Lord George Hill had deprived them of the mountain grazing?—I know that they have been set to Scotch and English farmers, for I was present at the assizes when they claimed the right to them.

1158. You do not know whether that which was set to the Scotch and English farmers had been in the occupation of Lord George Hill previously or not?—Not of my own knowledge; but I believe it was always claimed by the people.

1159. Mr. *Dobbs.*] When did you first visit this district?—In December.

1160. Had you ever been there before?—I had not been so far down; not into the district. I had been so far as Crossroads, or Robinson's fair, before.

1161. How long did you stay the first time?—Only two days in passing. I was directed by the proprietor and editor of the newspaper to ascertain whether the statements made in the public press were true, and whether there was any excitement in the public mind about the mountain pastures having been taken away from the people of Gweedore and Cloughaneely.

1162. When did you visit it again?—In May.

1163. Had you been there in the meantime?—I had not.

1164. How many days were you there in May?—I was a fortnight exactly in the district. I went on Saturday the 1st of May, and I left it on Saturday the 15th.

1165. What places did you visit during that fortnight?—The townlands I have mentioned in Cloughaneely, and I visited the townlands I have mentioned in Gweedore.

1166. No others?—No others.

1167. What were your means of information as to what you have told the Committee during that fortnight?—Personal inspection; I walked from one townland to another indiscriminately.

1168. With regard to a great many things that you could not have seen, what were your means of information?—I do not quite understand the question.

1169. You have told the Committee the amount of rent and the taxation; what means had you of knowing that?—I have mentioned no cases in which I did not examine the receipts, both of the old and new rent, and compared them with the Government valuation.

1170. Who

1170. Who was with you when you went there; were you alone?—No, I was not alone; on the first day I was with the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden and Mr. M'Cue.

1171. What were the christian names of those gentlemen who were with you?—I think Mr. M'Cue's name was James.

1172. *Chairman.*] Who else was with you?—The Rev. James M'Fadden.

1173. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Can you, by referring to your notes, give the Committee the names of any of those families living upon Lord George Hill's property, and who had no land?—One man was named Harley, in Meenanillar; he paid no rent; he lives in a little hut in a bog; said that he paid no rent; that is why I inferred that he had no land. I think there was Charles M'Geever; he represented to me that he had no land; I could not speak for him distinctly.

1174. Now, will you give the other ten, and mention the townlands as you go along?—I can say, shortly, that I have three or four instances on my notes, but, to prevent any misconception on the part of the Committee, I should say that I did not take down the names of those who had no land or who paid no taxes, or had not suffered from the causes I have named.

1175. You stated that there were about 12 families in this miserable state, and I asked you why they did not go to the poorhouse, and I want to know their names?—I will furnish them to the Committee so far as I am acquainted with them.

1176. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] You stated, did you not, that you visited 50 families on Lord George Hill's property; tell me the largest number that you found in family in any one house?—I found 12 in the family of a man named Charles Gallagher of Menaduff.

1177. What did his family consist of?—The man and his wife and ten children; there may have been an old woman.

1178. What were the ages of those ten children?—I cannot say.

1179. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You were a stranger there; who directed you to the different families that you visited?—I was accompanied by the Rev. Mr. M'Gee the first day in Gweedore, but I have gone away from Mr. M'Gee altogether, and I went into the townlands indiscriminately; I went by myself; in that way I visited the Dores, which were represented as being in a prosperous condition as compared with the other townlands.

1180. Were you aware when you went down to make those inquiries that you would have to come to the House of Commons as a witness?—I was not; but I thought that as the newspaper that I was engaged in took a prominent part in this inquiry, it might be necessary for me to give evidence here.

1181. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] You have stated that those poor people were not allowed to get the sea-weed; do you mean that the sea-weed was running short, and that there would not be enough to eat if they got it indiscriminately, or that the landlords prevented their getting the sea-weed?—I could not say.

1182. Who prevented them?—They did say that they considered that it was the proprietors.

1183. Lord *Naas.*] Who told you that the proprietors prevented them from getting the sea-weed?—In the case of Widow Rogers I was told so.

1184. What did she tell you?—I went to this woman myself, and I asked if she used the sea-weed, and the very words she said were, that they had eaten the full of a garden of it; and she said, in her own way, she wished she could always get it, and then she would not complain. I said, "Are you disallowed getting it?" and she said, "Yes; we cannot get it till after night."

1185. Did she say who it was that prevented her?—She said she believed Mr. Wybrants Olphert prevented her; she believed he was the person.

1186. Do you mean the Committee to understand that this woman told you that Mr. Wybrants Olphert, or his agent, prevented her from picking sea-weed on the sea-shore?—Yes; she blamed Mr. Wybrants Olphert for being the means of depriving her of it, though he did not directly prevent her.

1187. Where did she live?—She lived, I think, in a place called Alt; I think it is included in Ardsbeg.

1188. Sir *William Somerville.*] Were all the townlands that you visited within the districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely?—Yes.

1189. Were they all subject to police tax and sheep tax?—No, not all; I said before that in the townlands that I visited in Cloughaneely, for the most part they were not suffering from the taxation.

1190. With regard to this rent that you have mentioned upon the farm of a man named M'Ilwain, was that an acreable rent?—No; it was the rent of his holding.

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1191. Was it a bulk rent?—Yes.

1192. The bulk rent was raised from 1 *l.* 6 *s.* to 2 *l.*?—Yes; the rent for his holding.

1193. *Chairman.*] From having visited that district, and having been through it in the way you have described, to what do you attribute the destitution as to which you have given evidence?—In the first place, to the mountain pastures being taken from them, for evidently they have been taken from them; they have no outlet now, they say, for their cattle; and in the next place, I attribute it to the raised rents, and again to the enormous taxation.

1194. Sir *William Somerville.*] That answer only refers to a portion of the district which you have visited?—Yes; the two former causes refer to the whole of the districts, and the latter to one district.

1195. That is to say, the increased rents and the taking away the pastures, apply to the whole of the districts?—Yes.

1196. But the taxation does not apply to the whole?—Just so.

Mr. *James Williams*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Williams.*

1197. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] ARE you connected with the Dublin "Evening Post"?—I am.

1198. Did you go, or were you sent to visit this district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely?—I was sent by the proprietor, Mr. Conway.

1199. At what time did you visit that district?—On Monday, the 8th of March, I visited Derrybeg.

1200. What portions of the district did you visit and inspect yourself?—That portion upon the left-hand side of the road from the hotel at Gweedore to the residence of the priest at Derrybeg.

1201. What is it called?—I think it is called the Bog of Gweedore.

1202. Whose property is it?—I was told it was Lord George Hill's.

1203. How long did you remain there?—I got in there about 4 o'clock on that day; I remained there that night, in Father M'Gee's house, and I spent about two hours, I think, in the bog of Gweedore, going through the houses of the inhabitants.

1204. Do you mean that you went on the 8th of March?—I mean that I went on the 8th of March, from about 3½ or 4 o'clock till 6, my inspection of the people and their dwellings.

1205. How many houses did you inspect or visit that day?—I did not keep an exact account of them; I never keep any notes; I had not the remotest idea that I ever should be summoned to the House of Commons when I went there, but having heard that I would be summoned, I cut all my letters out of the columns of the "Evening Post," and pasted them in this book, that I might refer to them if required, commencing with the beginning of the transaction in March last.

1206. Will you come now to the houses which you visited on that day, Monday, the 8th of March; how many did you visit?—I think I visited about 15 or 20.

1207. All in the bog of Gweedore?—All in the bog of Gweedore.

1208. Did any of those families hold land, or were they labourers, do you know?—Every house that I went into, I was told that the man was the proprietor of the house, and the rent-holder of what they called the cut upon which the house was built.

1209. What size in general was the cut, about what quantity of land did each of those persons hold?—I could not say, because the cuts run parallel with one another up to the foot of the mountain; I asked some questions, and I was told that one man had about three acres; he guessed it to be about three acres, but he did not know the measurement; he formerly paid 18 *s.* an acre for that cut.

1210. Just describe the condition in which you found the people, and the houses that you visited on that day, Monday, the 8th of March?—With respect to the furniture, it was very scanty indeed; there was, what I was told, a bed; of course, I saw that there was a place upon which people lay, but there was no bedtick nor bed covering, except something in the shape of a piece of grey calico, or something of that kind; and the people of the house, varying in number from five to seven, had no other bed but that. Under some of those beds I discovered, perhaps about half a barrel of potatoes, a hundred and-a-half or thereabouts, of a small kind that is grown always in peaty soil; small and soft potatoes.

1211. Did

1211. Did you find any other species of food?—I did not see them at their meals; but I was shown a vessel, I think it was an iron pot, in the bottom of which there were some chopped potatoes in pulp; and they told me that they made up the two meals in a day (they had not a third meal) from those potatoes in pulp, with the sea-weed; I asked to see the sea-weed, and they showed it to me in a small wooden vessel, about six inches in diameter; I asked if it was in common use, and they said that it was when they could get it; but that of late they were prohibited from taking it from the sea-shore.

1212. On whose estate was that?—That was on Derrybeg, on Lord George Hill's estate.

1213. Did you see sea-weed in each of the houses?—No, I did not.

1214. Can you state from recollection in how many you did see it?—I think in about three; but I did not make further inquiries about it.

1215. Could you tell whether they had cattle of any kind?—There was one house in which I saw two little black cows, smaller than the Kerry cow, and very poor looking; I did not see any provender for them; they were in one end of the house, and the family sitting at a turf fire at the other end, and the bed in the corner. There was no provision for them; and these were the only animals of the brute creation I saw while I was in Gweedore.

1216. Did you remain there longer than that Monday?—I did; the next morning, Tuesday, I went down to the police station; I wanted to see the opposite side of the road, and I got into conversation with head constable Young there; and I asked him to send a man to come with me, as I did not know the district; but in the absence of an order from a magistrate, he could neither send a man with me nor go himself. In the course of conversation with head constable Young, he told me that I had seen the worst part of it (meaning the distressed district).

1217. Did you go and see any other portion of that district then?—I did not go on the opposite side of the road, because I did not know it, and I did not go a second time to the Gweedore side.

1218. Did you visit on that and on the succeeding days any portions of the district besides the bog of Gweedore?—No, not any more. Perhaps I ought to go back to the starting point. The day of my arrival at Derrybeg was the day, as I understood, which was announced for the distribution of clothing and relief to those destitute people; and on my arrival there, I saw, perhaps, about 100 or 150 persons, generally the heads of families, to all appearance, and they were all in a manifest state of deplorable destitution with regard to personal covering.

1219. Did you observe the dress of the females?—I did; and one, perhaps, would illustrate a great number of them. I will describe to the Committee the case of one woman that I wrote down at first for publication, but upon second consideration, and consulting with some other gentlemen in the office, I thought that it was better to leave it out of the paper, and not publish it. It was snowing at the time, and the people were all wet from the snow. This woman and other people there had neither shoes nor stockings, and I am quite persuaded that this woman in particular had not a single shred of inner covering; for from the snow (she was bareheaded) having dissolved upon her person, the rags she had on clung to her, and described the outlines of her form as a wet cloth would describe the outlines of a statue; she was speaking in Irish, imploring covering or some relief. I gave her a sixpence, and she said something to me in Irish. I asked a man by me what she said, and he said that she said she hoped I did not consider her a beggar. That was only one out of a great number that I saw; and I saw them in their houses in the same way, except that they were dry, and their clothing was something about the same description as the one I have described as being in the open air.

1220. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Where did this distribution take place?—At Derrybeg. I think it was a hayloft belonging to the priest. I went into this hayloft, and I saw a great quantity of personal and bed clothing there. I saw two young men who travelled with me on the car from Letterkenny, the one the son and the other an assistant in the shop of Mr. Joseph Gallagher, a merchant there.

1221. Mr. *Maguire.*] It was on the day of the distribution that you went down?—It was.

1222. Were you expected?—I was.

1223. You had been informed that the distribution was to take place on that day, had you not?—Yes.

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1224. By whom?—I think it was Father Doherty wrote to the office, and requested that somebody might be sent down to witness it. There were two or three clergymen engaged in this hayloft, and they were distributing from the window articles of clothing, blankets, and things of that kind; and those young men who travelled with me on the car were employed in cutting up pieces of corduroy for the lower clothing of the men and boys; these were also distributed through the window to persons who had made applications for them. At that point the Reverend Mr. Doherty and I went down into Gweedore to the cottages. I told him that I was not there so much for the purpose of seeing the distribution of those things, but I wanted to see the actual state of the houses in which those people lived, and the state in which they were themselves.

1225. Did any one accompany you into the houses?—Yes, the Reverend Mr. Doherty and the Reverend Mr. M'Groarty, and the witness who was examined here yesterday, M'Bride.

1226. Did you go into all the houses on the bog?—No, not all.

1227. Who selected the houses that you went into?—We went into them indiscriminately as they came before us.

1228. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Upon one occasion, in a house where they told you that there had been a prohibition upon the gathering the sea-weed, did you make any inquiries in what way that prohibition was carried out amongst the people, or who gave the orders, or any particulars about what must have appeared to you so extraordinary an act?—Yes; they told me that it was by the orders of Lord George Hill that they were prohibited from taking this sea-weed from the sea-shore. The answers that I got to my questions implied that it was prohibited to them from taking it to eat.

1229. What was conveyed to you was, that those people being in a starving condition, and living very much upon the sea-weed, were prohibited by Lord George Hill even from availing themselves of that source of food: was that your impression?—Quite so.

1230. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] Do you know by whom that was said?—No; the people there generally speak Irish and nothing else; and I asked this M'Bride and the reverend gentlemen that were with me, who understood Irish, what they said, and they translated to me what they said.

1231. Lord *Naas.*] Have you ever visited Connemara or any other wild district in Ireland?—I have not been to Connemara. I went through other districts in Ireland during the terrible years of famine.

1232. You had no means of comparing the clothing of the people of Connemara with the clothing of the people of this district of which you are speaking?—No.

1233. Sir *W. Somerville.*] Were you ever in that district before in any previous year?—No, nor since.

1234. *Chairman.*] What is your opinion of the state of destitution in comparison with what you saw in other parts of Ireland in your visits in 1848?—I think, except in one case in Thurles auxiliary workhouse, what I saw in Gweedore was the most deplorably degraded state of destitution that I ever saw, and it was in 1849 or 1850 that I visited Thurles.

1235. What places did you visit in the famine years?—I was through several districts.

1236. Lord *Naas.*] Were you ever in the West of Ireland during the famine years?—I was in Galway.

1237. What part of Galway?—The town of Galway.

1238. Were you ever in the western part of Mayo?—No.

1239. Have you ever been in Kerry?—No.

1240. Or Cork?—No.

1241. Or Clare?—Nor Clare.

1242. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Nor Donegal, previously to this visit?—Nor Donegal, previously to this visit.

1243. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What distressed parts of Ireland did you visit during the time of the famine?—Some portions of Tipperary.

1244. What portions?—Thurles principally, and Templemore.

1245. Did you visit any other places?—At this moment I have not any particular recollection, though I was a good deal out through the provinces at that time, from 1847 to 1851.

1246. Sir *W. Somerville.*] Were the habitations of the people very wretched?—They

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—They were in a deplorable state; if it had not been for the turf fires they had, I do not think they could have existed in them.

1247. Is it your opinion that that was the general condition of those houses in all years?—I am not able to say what it was in former years.

1248. *Chairman.*] In your intercourse with those people what did they attribute their destitution to?—My own impression was, that it was the determination of Lord George Hill to exterminate the entire race.

1249. That is not an answer to my question; what did they attribute their destitution to?—To the deprivation of the mountain tops, and the mountain commonage upon which they grazed cattle and sheep, to being confined to the low land or to the cut, to the rack rent in some cases doubled and trebled, and in one case it was raised from 18 *s.* to 4 *l.* 10 *s.*

1250. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] If it was your impression that Lord George Hill wished to exterminate the entire race, did you ask them whether he had ejected them from their lands?—I did not.

1251. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did the people attribute to Lord George Hill a desire to exterminate them?—That was my own impression; in addition to the rack rents, I attributed the destitution to the levy of the tax by the grand jury for the alleged sheep stealing or the malicious destruction of sheep, to the maintenance of an additional constabulary force, the two taxes combined as the remuneration for the loss of sheep and the maintenance of the constabulary, (upwards of 2,000 *l.*), and this sum having been levied upon those two districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, principally Gweedore. I believe that those rack rents and taxes and likewise the loss of the mountain, reduced them to their present state; and it is quite plain to any one of common observation, that a landlord who would pursue such a course towards his tenantry, could have no other object it view but the extermination of the entire race.

1252. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] It is your impression that Lord George Hill's coming into the country was a serious infliction upon it?—I am not going to say that, but if he act in that way it would be a serious infliction.

1253. You stated that your own impression is, that Lord George Hill wishes to exterminate the race; if that is your impression, is it also your impression that Lord George Hill's coming into the country was a serious infliction upon it?—Of course it would be if he act in that way; it must be a serious infliction.

1254. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Did you see any houses there that would be considered substantial, well-built cottages, in the neighbourhood of Dublin?—There is the Gweedore Hotel, and on towards Derrybeg, exactly opposite the Reverend Mr. M'Gee's house, there is a comfortable house, and the name of the owner is Masson.

1255. Is that the only one?—There is another the other side of the road, but those are the only two that I saw at Derrybeg.

1256. You think that there are only a couple there?—Only a couple at Derrybeg; there may be more at Bunbeg, but I was not there.

1257. Mr. *Maguire.*] Were there fixed days for the distribution of the relief?—Yes, the 8th of March was one.

1258. Do you think that the distribution on this day was got up for your peculiar benefit, for the purpose of showing the distress of the people to you?—No.

1259. It was an ordinary distribution?—There were some doubts expressed in the newspapers that there were no such cases of destitution, and I took advantage of the ordinary distribution to be present at it.

1260. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You were sent for to go down, were you not?—I was invited down there on that particular day, and I believe other persons connected with the newspaper press were invited also.

1261. Mr. *Maguire.*] You were told that that was one of the days on which a distribution took place?—Yes.

The Reverend *John Doherty*, called in; and Examined.

Rev. *J. Doherty.*

1262. Mr. *Maguire.*] YOU are a Catholic clergyman, are you not?—Yes.

1263. Where do you officiate?—In the parish of Meevagh, in the county of Donegal.

1264. You are connected, are you not, with the committee associated for the relief of destitution at Gweedore and Cloughaneely?—I am honorary secretary.

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1265. You are intimately acquainted with all the district of Gweedore?—I am.

1266. For how long have you known the district?—For the space of eight years; I have been parish priest of Gweedore for the space of eight years, and I was nearly a year there as Roman-catholic curate.

1267. What is the entire time during which you have been connected with that district?—Nearly nine years.

1268. From what period, to what period?—I came to Gweedore first, as curate, in 1846.

1269. Did you remain there an entire year at that time?—I remained about eight months or nine; I am not positive which.

1270. You came there in 1846; up to what time did you remain in that district?—After eight or nine months I was removed from Gweedore to be the administrator of the parish of Lower Templecrone.

1271. You were 11 years connected with this district, with the exception of a few months?—No; I was about nine years connected with the district.

1272. Up to what period were you connected with the district?—Up to September 1857.

1273. Speaking generally, what is the condition of the people of this district?—They are extremely poor; they were always poor, I believe; but for the last few years their condition has greatly deteriorated, and since the levying of the tax extreme destitution set in as a consequence.

1274. What do you think was the original cause of that destitution there?—I believe it was the taking away of the mountain commonage, and the increase of rents.

1275. Had the people enjoyed that commonage for any length of time?—They enjoyed it, I understand and believe, from time immemorial.

1276. Do you know, of your own knowledge, that they had enjoyed it from the time you have been connected with the parish, and before that?—Parts of the mountain they had; other portions they had not; Lord George Hill purchased the property of Gweedore in 1838; up to that time the people had the free commonage of the mountains, and, I think, shortly after his accession to the property he took a portion of this mountain, but a very inconsiderable portion in comparison to the whole, into his own immediate possession.

1277. When was the greater portion taken away?—In 1854.

1278. How many landowners are there in the Gweedore district?—About eight.

1279. Who are they?—Lord George Hill, Mrs. Jane Russell, the Rev. A. Nixon, John Oban Woodhouse, Mr. Wybrants Olphert, the Representatives of the late John Austin, Lord Leitrim, and the Rev. Charles Stewart.

1280. Can you tell me what is the total area of their estates; what does it comprise?—It comprises 40,511 acres.

1281. At what valuation?—The total valuation is 1,085 *l.* 13 *s.*

1282. Is that exclusive of buildings?— Exclusive of buildings. The district of Gweedore, comprising the property of those eight proprietors, in the parish of Tullaghobegly, where I was appointed Catholic priest, is divided into east and west. I am only talking now of the west part of Tullaghobegly, and it goes under the name generally of Gweedore. Some of those landlords have properties in Cloughaneely; but I am confining myself to the portion that they hold in Gweedore.

1283. You confine yourself, in fact, to those 40,000 and odd acres?—Yes.

1284. Of this number of 40,000 and odd acres, how many acres are now in the possessions of the landlords?—Twenty thousand two hundred and seventy-nine acres.

1285. Are those statute acres?—I believe so.

1286. Were those 20,279 acres taken from the tenantry?—I believe so.

1287. That is your belief?—It is; and I know it of my own knowledge, that the bulk of the 20,000 acres has been taken from the tenants; Lord George Hill alone has taken about 12,000 acres.

1288. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What do you mean by taken?—It was land which they previously had the privilege of using for grazing on, and that privilege has been taken from them, and they have been prohibited from having cattle on it.

1289. You mean that it is not let with the right of grazing?—Yes, of course; the land is there still; its commonage is taken away.

1290. Mr.

1290. Mr. *Maguire.*] Then how many thousand acres were left in the actual possession of the tenants?—Twenty thousand two hundred and thirty-two.

1291. What were they valued at?—They were valued at 909 *l.* 13 *s.*, exclusive of buildings.

1292. How many inhabitants are there in that district?—About 5,000.

1293. According to Griffith's valuation, what is the average value of the land in the possession of those people per acre?—By calculation I find it to be per acre sixpence-halfpenny.

1294. What is the average number of acres to each individual?—About 4½ acres.

1295. What would that be valued at?—Four and a-half acres would come to something about 2 *s.* 6 *d.*

1296. Would that extent of land be sufficient, do you think, to support the people?—I believe not.

1297. What is the general character of the district; is it fertile, or barren, or mountainous?—It is extremely barren and mountainous.

1298. Describe to the Committee what it is?—I know that the quality of the soil must be very inferior, as is evident from the fact that it is only valued at 6½ *d.* per acre; and you may form an idea of the quality of the soil, and the moistness of the climate, from the fact that there are 1,720 acres of this land under actual water, marshy land; and an idea may be formed of the unevenness and abruptness of the surface from the fact that there are within a few miles of each other, mountains such as Aragle, 2,462 feet, Carntrena 1,396, and Bloodyforland, 1,036 feet above the level of the sea, and there are other numerous smaller hills.

1299. It is generally a mountainous district?—Very mountainous.

1300. The estate of Lord George Hill comprises several townlands, does it not?—It does; I understand that of those 40,511 acres that I have referred to, Lord George Hill holds 22,960 acres.

1301. Do you know the names of the townlands?—I do.

1302. Will you name them to the Committee?—Carrick, Magheraclogher, Ardnagappary, Dore, Magheragallon, Stranacorcragh, Meenaduff, Meenanillar, Sheskinbeg, Lunniagh, Stramackilmartin, Meenderryamph, Innishsirrer, Innismane, Gola Island, Derrybeg, Meenacung, Glen-Thornan, Dore, and others.

1303. The total area of the land belonging to Lord George Hill, you say, is 22,960 acres?—Yes.

1304. And that you say is valued at, what?—At 695 *l.* 5 *s.*

1305. Exclusive of buildings?—Exclusive of buildings.

1306. What is the value of the buildings?—£. 334 *l.* 1 *s.*

1307. Of this estate how many acres are in the immediate possession of Lord George Hill?—Twelve thousand eight hundred and seventy-five acres, 2 roods and 35 perches.

1308. What amount is left in the occupation of the tenantry?—Ten thousand and eighty-five acres.

1309. What was the former rent of the entire quantity, that is to say of the 22,960 acres?—About 429 *l.*

1310. What is the present rent?—About 875 *l.*

1311. Is that for the 10,085 acres only, or does it include the new cuts?—It includes portions of the new cuts.

1312. You say that 875 *l.* is the rent of the land now left in the possession of the tenants?—It is.

1313. I think you said a while ago that of the mountains taken from the tenantry an inconsiderable portion was taken into occupation by Lord George Hill shortly after he came into possession of the property?—Yes.

1314. Was there any compensation given for the land that was taken away from them at that time?—None whatever for the mountain portion that was taken.

1315. Do you know that by the taking away of the land at that time injury was done to any of the tenants; for instance, in the case of Bryan Boyle?—Bryan Boyle told me that the mountain taken from him by Lord George Hill, on his accession to the property, was value to him at about 100 *l.*

1316. Was the remainder, making a total, as you said of 12,875 acres, taken from them in 1854?—It was.

1317. To what purpose was it applied?—It was let to sheep-graziers.

1318. I think you said that the destitution on Lord George Hill's estate generally is very great?—It is so.

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1319. With regard to sea-weed; is sea-weed a common article of food in that district?—It was very generally used this last summer as an article of food.

1320. Both last year and this year?—Yes.

1321. Was it used much more last year and this year than in any year of your remembrance?—Considerably more.

1322. Would you say that, even in the famine year, this sea-weed was more generally used than it was used last year and this year?—I could scarcely say. I did not make a comparison between the use of sea-weed in 1847 and in 1857, or this summer.

1323. But as far back as your memory goes, and you have had any opportunity of observing, do you find that there was a more general use of sea-weed last year, and the early part of this year, than there was for any other year?—The consumption was at least as large as it was in 1847.

1324. But it was larger, you say, than it was in 1851, 1852, and 1853?—It was larger than it was at any time during any intermediate year.

1325. Have the circumstances of the people become much deteriorated since the year 1854?—Much.

1326. I suppose the people suffered a good deal from the famine in the famine year?—They did; I looked upon it that up to 1856, or at least, up to 1854 and 1855, the people were recovering considerably from the effects of the famine, at least, I felt so, compared with what they were on my being appointed to Gweedore in 1846.

1327. They suffered a great deal in the famine year, did they not?—They did.

1328. But you state that they were gradually recovering up to the year 1854?—They were.

1329. It was at that time, was not it, that they lost the mountain grazing?—It was.

1330. And that their rents were increased?—Yes.

1331. The taxation was also greatly increased, was it not, in the summer and winter of last year?—It was.

1332. Do you say that owing to those causes combined, the distress was very great?—It was extremely great.

1333. Do you say that the distress was caused by the taking away of commonage and the increase of rents?—The taking away of the commonage lessened the means of supporting the people, and obliged them to part with some of their stock, and then the taxation was a crushing blow to them.

1334. But before the taxation came upon them, their circumstances were much decreased in consequence of the taking away of this mountain commonage?—Yes, they were gradually diminishing.

1335. Were there not bog lands also taken from them?—There were.

1336. Out of which new cuts were made afterwards?—Yes.

1337. They are called top-lands, are they not?—Yes.

1338. Those are distinct from the mountain commonage?—By the mountains we mean where the people were wont to graze their sheep and black cattle on, and the top-lands we call the part where the people were wont to cut turf, and where they had a sort of common range for their cattle when near their homes.

1339. Do you think the people were better prepared to meet the visitation of 1846, than they were, say last year?—I believe they were; their stock was much larger, and their means consequently of meeting it were much greater.

1340. Do you think they had more money at that time than they had last year?—I am not prepared to say that, but they had a larger amount of stock.

1341. Was there a partial failure of the potatoes in 1854?—There was.

1342. Did you take any steps in consequence of that failure of the potatoes in that year?—I did.

1343. What did you do?—I memorialised the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland to extend some relief to the distress of that district.

1344. What was the result of that memorial?—It was refused; the Lord Lieutenant told me that he instructed the Poor Law Commissioner to visit the district, and make such provisions as he would find necessary.

1345. What was the date of that memorial?—I cannot say the date.

1346. Was it after the failure of the potatoes in 1854?—It was.

1347. Was it that winter, or the next spring?—I cannot be accurate, because I have no notes; but I think it was about May, or the beginning of June 1855; it was in summer.

1348. In

1348. In consequence of that refusal, did you do anything?—Yes.

1349. What did you do?—The Reverend Mr. M'Fadden and I applied to a merchant at Dunfanaghy, Mr. Henry Moffat, and he enabled us, on our own credit, to extend relief to the parties distressed.

1350. What relief did you give to the people?—Indian meal.

1351. To what amount?—To the amount, I should say, between both of us, of about 1,500*l.*

1352. Was that distributed in the summer of 1855?—It was.

1353. Was that money ever paid back to you?—It was, with the exception of 30*l.* or 40*l.*, I think.

1354. Was there a good harvest that year?—There was an abundant harvest.

1355. It was on your own and your brother clergyman's responsibility that that amount of property was given?—It was.

1356. And it was distributed by you?—Yes.

1357. Did you consider that there was urgent necessity for such relief?—Certainly; otherwise I would not have run the risk that I did.

1358. How was it repaid to you; was it repaid by the people?—It was.

1359. Describe what you did on that occasion?—I first memorialed the Lord Lieutenant, and he then told me he had given instruction to the Poor Law Commissioner to visit the district. The Poor Law Commissioner, on visiting the district, made application to the workhouse. At that time he found, I understand, that the guardians did not meet for a month; but on their meeting it was represented to him that there was no application for admission to the workhouse, and the consequence was he refused to extend out-door relief, or any relief to the parties whom we represented as needy and in indigent circumstances.

1360. Lord *Naas.*] Who refused to extend relief?—The Poor Law Commissioner.

1361. Mr. *Maguire.*] They refused to extend relief on the statement that no person applied at the workhouse for relief?—Yes.

1362. Therefore they assumed that, because no person applied to the workhouse, destitution did not exist?—Yes.

1363. You assert to the Committee, that so great did you think was the destitution existing at that time, notwithstanding the statement of the poor law authorities, that you and your brother clergyman involved yourselves to the amount of 1,500*l.* for the purpose of relieving the distress of the district?—Yes.

1364. Is that your assertion to the Committee?—It is.

1365. How was that repaid to you?—It was paid to us by the poor to whom we extended relief, about Christmas, and up to the February and March after it. There was an abundant crop that harvest.

1366. Were the people very grateful for the relief thus afforded?—To be sure they were.

1367. You said that the entire of that amount of 1,500*l.* was refunded to you, with the exception of 30*l.*?—About that. I do not complain, as some of the parties I was giving relief to I knew at the time would not have the means to pay me back.

1368. Was there a partial failure of the potato crop in 1856?—There was.

1369. Was the potato crop of last season good?—I should say there was more than a partial failure in 1856; there was a considerable failure in 1856; and last year, though the crop was pretty good in growth, I understand that it was overtaken by the rot before the people could harvest it or consume it.

1370. Speaking of the farms on Lord George Hill's estate, do you think that they are sufficiently large?—I do not.

1371. Do you think, on the contrary, that they are miserably small?—I do; and I believe the farms are so miserably small, that if the tenants are confined to them they will not be able to live on them.

1372. Can you give an idea of what those farms consist of; are they mere strips of land?—They are mere strips of land, very narrow and long. Captain Kennedy, in speaking of the divisions which Lord George Hill was making in Gweedore after his accession to the property, refers to the size of the farms, and objects to their being divided.

1373. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Who is Captain Kennedy?—He was the secretary for the Land Commission. I am reading from his letter in Lord George Hill's book, "Facts from Gweedore," where he says, "The best circumstanced farm having its area about 15 acres, its length 281 perches, and mean breadth 9½ perches, or nearly thirty times its breadth; the poorest circumstanced farm containing

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taining 1 acre 1 rood and 15 perches, length 266 perches, and mean breadth four-fifths of a perch, or the length 332 times its breadth." Now if they were made in two divisions as the people were anxious to have done, the above description would pretty accurately define them; the farms made by Lord George Hill are exactly the same length and only double the breadth, and the disproportion between the length and breadth of the present farms is only lessened by one-half.

1374. Are any of those strips of land or farms as narrow as the breadth of this room?—Much narrower; some of them are so narrow, that the house must be built gableways.

1375. Mr. *Maguire.*] Do you know the townland of Magheralosk?—I do.

1376. Is that a sub-denomination of Meenaduff?—Yes.

1377. How many families are there on that townland?—Thirteen families.

1378. What was their general food last year, confining yourself more particularly to the distressed period?—Their food consisted of some very inferior potatoes and sea-weed, the sea-weed entering largely into their dietage in order to economise the potato, and occasionally in summer, Indian meal.

1379. Is the sea-weed used also with Indian meal?—It is.

1380. Did you hear the witness yesterday stating that the sea-weed was used for the purpose of prolonging the potato?—I did.

1381. Was that an accurate description?—It is; that is what I mean by economising their diet.

1382. Of the thirteen families in this townland, how many do you say have beds?—Only two.

1383. Out of those thirteen families but two have beds, you say?—Out of those thirteen families but two have beds.

1384. Would you describe what those beds are composed of?—When I say that they had beds I mean by bed (applying it to those persons), a chaff bed; a tick with chaff or straw in it, answering the use of a paillasse, and bedsteads made by some workmen.

1385. Is the best description of bed, a sacking stuffed with straw or with chaff?—Yes.

1386. Now, would you say that the possession of a bed of that kind was indicative of great opulence?—By no means; not opulence.

1387. At any rate, the people who have those beds I suppose consider themselves in a much superior position to the persons who have only straw without covering?—Certainly.

1388. Do you assert that out of those 13 families, 11 had no beds, to use the proper term of bed?—I do; that is to say there are 11 that have no tick nor chaff.

1389. Do you say they merely use straw, as distinguished from straw in a tick?—They merely use straw, or straw layer without a tick.

1390. Do those people consume milk and butter much?—No.

1391. What proportion of those 13 would you say consume milk and butter in the year?—I should say about one-third do not use milk or butter, perhaps, throughout the whole year.

1392. Now, as to their clothes; will you describe what was the state of the body clothes of the people at the end of last year and the beginning of this year, speaking now of those 13 families?—Except two of them; I did not look upon two of them as persons who were destitute; and although their means were greatly reduced, still I did not consider them as objects of charity or persons being exactly destitute; but the other 11 families have scarcely any coats unless in rags; no linen whatever; they may have had something in the shape of a cotton rag upon them, but I do positively say that that cotton rag would not stand washing.

1393. What was the state of the dress of the women?—The women were very badly dressed.

1394. Will you describe their dress?—In some instances they had an old drugget coat made of tammy, and I believe that they had scarcely an inside garment at all.

1395. In a word, would you say that the clothing of the women was sufficient for the purposes of decency?—It was not, and even in cases where it covered their person it was of such an inferior description, patched, if I may use the word, that the person would be ashamed to appear in public with it.

1396. Do you assert that the covering of the women was insufficient for the purposes of decency?—I do.

1397. Do you know a man named Dominick Doherty?—I do.

1398. Was

1398. Was that man's wife confined some time since?—She was.

1399. Under what circumstances?—Under very peculiar circumstances.

1400. Will you describe to the Committee what those circumstances were, as descriptive of the opulence of the district?—During her confinement (this was early this year, before the relief came) she had no bed to lie on but on the damp earth, and she had no covering for the child, and both during her confinement and afterwards she had nothing for nourishment but Indian gruel, without milk or any other relish; I understand that some of the neighbours brought her a bottle or two of milk.

1401. Who was the landlord of this man?—Lord George Hill; and I know of other peculiar cases. I know two or three families in Magheralosk who are living exclusively upon what they can make at the sea-shore, and they do it in this way,—they collect the sea-weed, and they exchange or barter it for potatoes with other parties. They have no potatoes of their own, nor the means of purchasing potatoes from other parties; they go to the sea-shore and collect sea-weed, and barter that sea-weed with other parties in order to their own sustenance, inasmuch as sea-weed of itself would not support human life.

1402. Do you call those people tenants in the ordinary sense of the term; are those people of whom you speak now occupiers of those strips of land?—They are.

1403. Are they Lord George Hill's tenantry?—They are.

1404. Supposing we come to Carrick, there are 70 familes in the townland of Carrick?—Yes.

1405. Are the people of Carrick also obliged to use sea-weed?—They are.

1406. Have you seen them yourself at their meals?—I have.

1407. You know that sea-weed is a common article of diet, as auxiliary to the potato or Indian meal?—It is.

1408. Have you seen them use it?—I have.

1409. Frequently?—Not very frequently, but I am positive of its being used; I have a moral certainty of it.

1410. Could you give any instance as showing the reduction in circumstances of the people; for instance, take the case of James M'Ginley, do you know anything about him?—I do; he has paid 12 *l.* 12 *s.* 6 *d.* taxes: he sold four of his cows, and is reduced now from 14 cows to four cows during the last three years.

1411. Had he any sheep?—He had 40, and he has now only three.

1412. I suppose the taxes were very light before the imposition of this sheep and police tax?—Yes, they were.

1413. The heavy tax is in consequence of the imposition of this double tax added to the ordinary tax?—It is.

1414. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Did this man loose his sheep, or did he sell them; you state that he sold four cows; did he sell the sheep too?—I am not prepared to say; I believe some of them were lost; but I believe he was obliged to part with his sheep, having no mountain pasturage to put them on.

1415. Mr. *Maguire.*] You take the fact, that he had 40 sheep, and he has but three now?—Yes.

1416. Has this man a bed?—Yes, he has; and I think he is the only man in the townland who has a bed.

1417. Of what is that bed composed?—It is composed of tick.

1418. Is it a feather bed?—No; there is not a person living by farming in the whole district of Gweedore who has a feather bed.

1419. Is it a chaff bed?—It is a chaff bed.

1420. Do you know a man named Dominic M'Garvey?—I do, he has one cow now and three sheep, and formerly he had seven cows and 15 sheep.

1421. That man paid heavy taxes did he not?—He paid 3*l.* 10*s.*

1422. Now go to Patrick M'Fadden; had he any stock before?—He had; he was reduced from five or six cows, and he now has none; I understand also that Patrick M'Fadden has the sea-sand encroaching upon his farm, and that he offered his farm to the landlord when the rate was increased, but it was not accepted from him. His farm was immediately on the sea-shore, and the drifting sand is covering over the arable portion of his land; he has tendered the land to the landlord, and I believe it has been rejected.

1423. With regard to the destruction of the stock, do you know of your own knowledge that that stock has been reduced by disease, and therefore the destruction of the cattle, or has this reduction been owing to the poverty of the owners

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who were obliged to sell them?—I believe that of a large portion of the sheep always placed upon the mountains, a considerable number of them always disappear; no man, as I understand from the peasants themselves, placing a quantity, say 20, on a mountain, expects that the whole 20 would afterwards be in their possession.

1424. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What becomes of them?—They either stray, or are stolen, or perhaps fall into quagmires; I should be very sorry to say that the reduction of the 40 sheep was exclusively owing to the deprivation of the mountain pasturage.

1425. Mr. *Maguire.*] Do you hear it stated that the peasantry, before any question arose in which this Committee originated, were in the habit of losing sheep upon the mountain?—I did.

1426. Did they say that it was a common circumstance?—They did.

1427. Was it also said that if a man had a certain number of sheep on the mountain, he could not calculate upon the return of more than a certain number?—He could not.

1428. He always calculated upon losing a certain number?—He did.

1429. With regard to the case of widow Margaret M'Bride, was she obliged to sell anything?—She was obliged to sell her gown to pay the taxes.

1430. Was she obliged to sell anything else?—She sold her oats besides, because the frock was not sufficient to cover the expenses, as they amounted to 2*l.* 11*s.*

1431. You are positive that she sold part of her clothing?—Yes, I am.

1432. Has she any land?—She has.

1433. What are her means of support?—The only means that she had when I saw her last was depending upon the contributions of public relief which we have extended to her.

1434. Take the case of widow Peggy M'Bride; did she sell any of her property?—She sold her only cow and her oats to pay the taxes; she sold her cow for 1*l.* 10*s.*

1435. Is that considered a large or a small price for a cow in that district?—There some cows go higher, but the average value of a cow, I should say, would be between 3*l.* and 4*l.* Some may go to 5*l.*, some 6*l.*, and some are sold at 2*l.*, and some at 3*l.*; but there is a certain season of the year at which the cows are not marketable.

1436. What were her taxes?—Her taxes were 3*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*

1437. At what season was she obliged to sell her cow; was it a marketable season, should you say?—I cannot say.

1438. She sold her cow for 1*l.* 10*s.*, at any rate?—Yes.

1439. And the taxes were 3*l.* 16*s.*?—Yes.

1440. Was Edward M'Garvey obliged to sell his oats to pay the taxes?—Yes, he was.

1441. Has he any stock?—He has no stock whatever.

1442. Of what kind is his furniture?—Very inferior; he has no bed or bedclothes whatever.

1443. Has he not a chaff bed?—No, he has not.

1444. Has he a blanket?—He has not; I am speaking now of the time before the relief was given.

1445. With regard to the increase of rent; do you know a man named Neal M'Cue?—Yes.

1446. What was his former rent?—His former rent was 4*s.* 5*d.*; his present rent is 10*s.* 8*d.*

1447. Was he obliged to sell his crop?—Yes, he was, while it was growing, to meet the taxes, which were 17*s.*

1448. Do you know Patrick M'Cafferty?—I do.

1449. Was he obliged to sell his oats and his potatoes?—Yes, to meet the taxes, amounting to 1*l.* 10*s.* 11½*d.*

1450. Has he any stock?—No, none; formerly he had two or three cows.

1451. Was he considered comfortable, or the contrary?—He was.

1452. Is he now poor?—He is now very poor.

1453. Does the same remark apply to Shane Conaghan?—Yes; Peggy Friel has also been reduced from two or three cows to none.

1454. Do all the people whose names you have given to the Committee more or less subsist upon sea-weed?—There are 70 families, as I said before, in Carrick, and I believe that of the 70 families there are not more than 20 who live independently of sea-weed, leaving 50 who use it for food.

1455. Could

1455. Could you name them, if necessary?—I could.

1456. With regard to their beds; how many do you say, out of the 70, have beds?—Something less than 20, I should say; about 14 or 15.

1457. Have the others either beds or bed-clothes?—The others have neither beds nor bed clothes; and those whom I represent as having beds, have neither feather-beds nor comfortable beds; they have only chaff beds.

1458. Have you been in their houses?—I have, frequently.

1459. Have you examined their beds?—I have.

1460. There could be no mistake as to what you describe?—None whatever.

1461. Were the houses of those people more comfortable in the beginning of 1854 than they were last year?—As I said before, they have been gradually deteriorating; I should be sorry to say that even in 1854 they were comfortable.

1462. Take 1853; what was the state of them then?—I maintain that from 1846 there was a continual struggle with life in this district; the famine visitation of 1846 reduced the circumstances of the people considerably, and, as I stated, there was a partial failure of the potatoes each alternate year; but still, their means of living were far more comfortable in 1853 than they are now.

1463. Was their destitution so visible in 1853 and the early part of 1854 as it was last year?—Not at all.

1464. Were they sufficiently clad for the purposes of decency in 1854?—They were, with some exceptions; but I think generally they were sufficiently clothed for the purposes of decency.

1465. Have you any idea as to the number of linen or other shirts in that district?—I do not think there is a linen shirt amongst the 70 families; there may be something about 30 or 40 cotton shirts, and I think the rest have no shirt whatever.

1466. How did you derive your information with regard to the number of shirts?—First, I observed the persons myself, and I afterwards inquired from them. I commenced by inquiring whether the greater number had no comforts whatever in that respect. I came at this calculation rather by negation than by positively summing up the parties who had none. I inquired, and found that not more than about 30, if even there were so many, in that district had anything like comfortable common shirts, and that the rest of them were wearing rags.

1467. Were there any families in that townland who were not able to attend chapel on Sundays?—There were.

1468. To what cause did they attribute their absence?—I frequently found them missing from chapel, and I inquired what kept them away, and I was told that it was because they had not sufficient clothing to come out.

1469. Does your own knowledge of the people justify that assertion?—It does. I excused them from attending chapel when their reply was forwarded to me, because I knew it to be true.

1470. Does not a Catholic peasant consider it a solemn obligation on his part to attend mass on Sunday?—It is very solemn.

1471. Would you exempt them from attendance at chapel unless under peculiarly grave circumstances?—I would not; but I believed that the state that they were in was an excusing cause for their absence.

1472. Will you state to the Committee whether you saw any of the women of this townland dressed so that you, as a priest, would not wish to see them in the church exposed to the people?—I did.

1473. Do you state that to the Committee?—I do positively. I do not wish to mention the names of the parties, as it may come to their ears.

1474. The pride of the people is not so broken down but that they would feel insulted and pained in having their names mentioned?—I believe so. They would not so much object to tell it to the parties who know them, but I believe having their names publicly set forth as not being sufficiently clothed, would certainly hurt their feelings.

1475. Is there much stock in that townland?—No.

1476. How many families have cows at all?—I think there are 20 families without cows.

1477. That is, cows of their own?—There were some of them who had no cows whatever, and there were some few who had cows on credit. I could mention their names if necessary.

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1478. How many acres have been lost to the tenants in that townland?—About 500 acres.

1479. Since when?—Since 1854.

1480. What was the original rent?—The original rent was 42*l.*, and their present rent is 101*l.* 16*s.*, exclusive of the rent applotted on those new cuts; of the 500 acres taken from the tenants, a portion has been applotted into cuts.

1481. How many acres are still in the possession of the landlords for the purpose of making other new cuts?—About 270 acres have been taken from them, and of that about 60 acres have been applotted or parcelled out into cuts, and the remaining 210 acres are in the immediate possession of the landowners.

1482. I think you say that 500 acres were taken from them?—Five hundred acres have been taken from them. The new cuts contain about 130 acres, and that still leaves in the possession of the landlord about 270 acres.

1483. Is it your opinion that the people deprived of their land, and in the position that you state they are, can live any way decently?—I believe positively they cannot. I believe that the portion of land in their possession is not sufficient to maintain themselves and their families.

1484. Is the rent much above the Government valuation?—The old rent of the district was 42*l.*; it is now 101*l.* 16*s.*; there is to be levied upon the new cuts 20*l.* 7*s.*, and for the patches occupied by Patrick M'Cue, Charles M'Cue, widow Hanna Gallagher, and Patrick Gallagher, the amount of 1*l.* 3*s.*, making in all a rental of 123*l.* 6*s.*; and it is over the old rental 81*l.*

1485. What is it over the Government valuation?—It is over the Government valuation something about 62*l.* 12*s.*, allowing that the value of the land in Lord George Hill's possession would be 4*l.*

1486. That is exclusive of buildings?—It is exclusive of buildings.

1487. When was the rent 42*l.*?—Up to 1854.

1488. Since then has it been increased to the amount that you speak of?—To the amount that I speak of, upon the tenants who formerly occupied the cuts; it is now 101*l.* And there are new cuts in another portion of the town, called by another name, amounting to 1*l.* 3*s.*, and by totting it all up it is 123*l.* 6*s.*

1489. Will you give the Committee an explanation of those new cuts?—As I said, the new cuts are portions of bog land, where the parties were hitherto in the habit of cutting turf, and the people are now prohibited from trespassing on those bog lands, and they are all parcelled out to six or seven acres, more or less, and lockspitted, and it is left open to any person to occupy them upon the understanding that he is to pay a certain rent to the landlord for them; and it is of this that I would most complain, because it is the means of generating a class of paupers; I believe that it will create pauperism, and that it will create poverty in the district, because the parties entering upon those new cuts have no means of cultivating them; they have no houses built upon them; the parties build a mud cabin, and they are thus accustomed to squalidness; when their means increase they build stone houses; still it is optional with the landlord whether he may continue them, after they have improved the soils, or not.

1490. Do you find that that is the result of the occupation of such bits of land?—I do, by experience; I know that poverty is generated by it.

1491. Would you say that the condition of those people is almost opulent?—No.

1492. What does the landlord do to prepare those farms for the occupation of those people?—Nothing whatever; they are merely lockspitted by the landlord, and the right of occupancy to them is given on the condition that the tenants enter into an engagement to pay a certain rent for them to the landlord, who does nothing whatever to improve them.

1493. He does not build a house upon it?—No.

1494. And he does not drain it?—No.

1495. Does he assist them with a gratuity of any kind?—Not a penny.

1496. Do you mean to say that those farms, if you call them such, are given to the people in a state of nature?—Yes.

1497. Lockspitted means merely marked out, does it not?—Yes, merely marked out; no fences whatever are raised upon them.

1498. That is all that the landlord does?—That is all that the landlord does.

1499. Those miserable people are squatted down upon it, to struggle in the best way

way they can?—Exactly so, upon that portion of the land, and I believe that they have not enough. It is a miserably small piece of land given; so small, I believe, that if it were brought to the highest cultivation that the land is susceptible of, it would not be capable of maintaining themselves and their families.

1500. Before the people are put upon the land, what is the value of it?—It is supposed to be valued at about one halfpenny in Griffith's valuation. I made a calculation of it, and I found that the number of acres taken off would not amount in any instance to more than 2 *d.* per acre, and in some instances 3 *d.*, and in some it is as low as one halfpenny; but talking of the Carricks, at present I think that the valuation would be one halfpenny.

1501. And what proportion does the rent charged upon those patches, when they come under rent, bear to the valuation?—It is 3 *s.* 6 *d.* and 4 *s.* per acre now.

1502. Do you know that of your own knowledge?—I did not measure the acres; but it is supposed that they are not more than six or seven acres, and the whole rental is 1 *l.* 10 *s.* Each cut is supposed to contain from six to nine acres. Thomas M'Gee is paying 1 *l.* 10 *s.*; John Gallagher, 1 *l.* 10 *s.*; Edward M'Fadden, 1 *l.* 10 *s.*; Edward M'Garvey, 1 *l.* 10 *s.*; John M'Bride, 1 *l.* 10 *s.*; and Patrick M'Cafferty, 2 *l.* 2 *s.*

1503. Those are all new cuts, are they not?—Yes.

1504. And they are given to them in a state of sterility?—Yes.

1505. How long have they them rent-free?—It was in 1854 or 1855 that they were parcelled out to them. I am not aware that they pay any rent yet; but it is the impression on the mind of the people that they must pay rent next year; they were given to understand so from Lord George Hill's agent or sub-agent.

1506. Do you know that?—I do not know it; but it is the impression on the minds of the people; and at all events, they are liable to pay for them at any time the landlord thinks proper.

1507. As a general rule, in some years after the people take possession of them, and build their houses upon them, and improve them, then they come under rent?—That is the general understanding.

1508. It might be either for three years, or four years, or six years?—It might be.

1509. Do you distinctly state that the landlord does nothing to assist the tenant?—I do.

1510. Either the hovel or the cottage is built entirely by the occupier?—Exactly; he may build a stone house or a mud hut, or anything at all; he is quite at liberty to use it in any way he pleases.

1511. As to the townland of Lunniagh, that has 31 families, I think, has it not?—Thirty-one.

1512. Of that 31, how many would you say are subsisting on sea-weed, that is, obliged to use it largely with their food?—I should think 20.

1513. Are there many beds or bedsteads in this townland?—There are not more than 10 bedsteads. I mean by bedsteads a bed made of wood by an artificer, by a carpenter; there are other fixtures made in the form of a bed, poles stuck in the wall and others transversely, over which there is strewed some straw.

1514. It does not follow that because a man has a bedstead, therefore he has a bed?—No, it does not.

1515. How many beds are there in that townland; are there more than three or four?—I think about three.

1516. Is there an abundance of cotton shirts there?—I should say about 10 shirts only in the 31 families.

1517. Have you ever heard of people resorting to such expedients as wearing what in fashionable phrase is called a "tommy," but there is called a "breast"?—I have; and generally when those persons make their appearance in public they have on that breast or tommy.

1518. They wear it when they go out to meet the gaze of strangers, or of the world?—Yes; that is, they wear it when they go out either to the fair, or the market, or chapel.

1519. Of those 31 families, would you say how many families there are, the mothers of which are able to dress so as to go out?—About four or five.

1520. Do you make that statement deliberately to the Committee?—I make that statement deliberately to the Committee.

1521. Have you seen their clothing?—I have. With the exception of Cormack

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Magee, Billy M'Garvey, Patrick D'Iver, James Coyle, and Patrick M'Garvey, there are no other families who have dresses to appear in public with.

1522. Does that apply more particularly to the women, or to the men?—More particularly to the women.

1523. Do you know of any cases, either in this townland or in the other townlands that you have spoken of, where the women expressed their aversion to go out in consequence of not having sufficient clothing for the purposes of modesty?—I have often.

1524. Are you speaking of within this year?—Yes, I am.

1525. Was that often?—It was. Moreover, I know that at the time we were distributing the clothing, there were women who, even under the expectation of getting a dress at the place that we were distributing it, would not appear, but sent some other member of the family for it.

1526. Is it a fact that the various members of a family have used the same dress for the purpose of going out?—I have known it done repeatedly. On one Sunday the mother comes to mass with a dress which the daughter will use on the next Sunday. I know this of my own experience.

1527. Of the 31 families which you speak of in this townland, how many are there that have no stock?—There are about 15.

1528. Are the others reduced in circumstances, generally?—They are.

1529. Is that owing to the taking away of the mountain?—It is, and to the taxation.

1530. Do you attribute, moreover, the deterioration of the circumstances of the people to the taking away of the mountain and the raising of the rents?—I do; and I am positive that if the people were consulted themselves, they think that their condition is far worse by taking away the mountains and the increase of the rents than by the taxation, inasmuch as one is a kind of continual taxation, and the other is only temporary.

1531. I believe there was a considerable number of acres of top-land taken away from them?—There were about 270 acres taken from the tenants of Lunniagh.

1532. When was that taken away?—Since 1853.

1533. Of those 270 acres, has not a certain portion been divided into those cuts?—That is something about 60 acres, more or less.

1534. Which you complain of as a process for propagating poverty and squalidness?—I do.

1535. That is entirely the act of the gentry, is it not?—It is.

1536. In this case it is the act of the proprietor?—It is.

1537. The remainder of the 270 acres is in the possession of the landlord?—It is; I believe that the remaining 210 acres are intended for other cuts.

1538. For a new nursery of paupers?—It is.

1539. Do you consider the condition of the people of this townland rather desperate?—It is very desperate, inasmuch as the top-lands have been taken from them by the occupiers of those new cuts; the old inhabitants of the townland are prohibited from trespassing upon what formerly they had the privilege of trespassing upon; the sand is making rapid encroaches upon their own little farms, and, I think, in the course of one or two years that the sands will eat up almost all the arable ground.

1540. So that, as you describe it, the landlord and nature will meet eventually; the landlord is eating away the land on the one hand, and nature, in the shape of the encroachment of the sand, is eating it away on the other?—Yes; but I should be very sorry that any observations I make about the landlord should be taken as personal to Lord George Hill himself.

1541. I am not, of course, wishing to encourage anything like personality; but is it not the fact, that the top-land is taken away in the one instance, and that the sand is encroaching below?—It is.

1542. Was the rent increased in that townland?—It was; the former rent was 23 *l.* 8 *s.*

1543. What is it now?—The new rent, that is the rent that the tenants are paying, the increased rent apart, from the new cuts, is 39 *l.*; there are seven new cuts that are paying 9 *l.* 10 *s.*, or are to pay 9 *l.* 10 *s.*, some part of which is already paid, making a total of 48 *l.* 10 *s.*

1544. That is an increase from 23 *l.* 8 *s.* to 39 *l.*, in spite of the top-lands and mountain commons being taken away from them?—Yes; the top-lands and mountain

mountain commons have been already parcelled out, and are contracted for at 9 *l.* 10 *s.*, and for a portion of them 2*l.* has been already paid.

1545. Upon the new cuts?—Upon the new cuts; the part of the land called Altnakirka.

1546. What was the value before, by the acre, of the land now made into the new cuts?—I find that the Government valuation of the whole will be only about 34 *l.*, whereas the rental was announced to be 48 *l.* 10 *s.*, and consequently over Griffiths' valuation 14 *l.* 6 *s.*

1547. I am speaking of the value of the land taken from them; was it about a halfpenny an acre?—Yes; as I said, those top-lands are not valued at anything more than 2 *d.*, and in this instance I find it so low as 1 *d.* or 1½ *d.*

1548. What rent is given now?—For cuts already taken, Francis Coll is to pay 1 *l.* 10 *s.*

1549. For how many acres?—There are about seven acres in each cut.

1550. Would that give something like 4 *s.* 3 *d.* an acre?—About 4 *s.* an acre, I think.

1551. Do those people who have the new cuts, as well as those who were the older occupiers, hold by lease or by the year?—There is no lease in the whole district; not one.

1552. Do you think that the want of a lease has the effect of making them more industrious or more energetic, or the contrary?—As to the leases of the lands or farms, as the people are now circumstanced, I believe that a lease would be valueless, inasmuch as I believe that the people would not be able to maintain themselves and their families on the land; but before the mountain pasturage was taken from them, and before the rent was increased, I have no doubt that a lease would have been a great encouragement to industry.

1553. Have they any kind of security for possessing the land as long as they themselves wish to occupy it?—Not at all; on the contrary, they are served with a notice to quit each year.

1554. Do you mean to say there is notice to quit served each year?—Yes, and even this year there is notice to quit served, and was last year, and every year during the eight years that I had been in Gweedore.

1555. So then, if I understand, the landlord has the most complete and absolute power over his tenants; is that the fact?—It is; and often they are threatened with having this power exercised, though it has not been done in many instances.

1556. Whether the landlord does or does not take advantage of the power that he retains by this notice to quit, it is the fact that he does serve this notice to quit annually upon them?—It is, and I believe that it paralyses the industry of the people.

1557. Do you apply that observation to the tenants of this particular townland of Lunniagh, or do you make it of more general application?—I make it of general application to all the tenants upon Lord George Hill's estate; they have been served with a notice to quit every year, while I have been in Gweedore.

1558. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Have those notices ever been enforced?—In one or two instances I believe they have; but I know that it is used as a convenient threat, and in one instance I know it has been put into execution; and I know, moreover, that at the time that the increased rents were placed upon their lands, it was held out that unless they would pay the increased rent, immediate legal prosecution would be undertaken against them, inasmuch as the notices had been already served, and the landowner could immediately proceed to evict the people.

1559. Mr. *Maguire.*] Tell me, from your own knowledge of the people, what is the moral effect upon the minds of the people in consequence of the prevalence of this practice?—I believe it paralyses their industry; I believe that owing to the impression upon the minds of the tenants that they may be turned out of their farms at any moment the landlord may think proper, they neglect to cultivate their farms or to bring them into a state of cultivation, which even their small means would enable them to do.

1560. Will you say that at any rate the notice to quit gives an active agent a most powerful screw for raising the rents?—I do.

1561. Would you say that a man who was held in so dependent a position as having notice to quit continually hanging over his head could not refuse to give any annual rent that could be possibly squeezed out of him?—I would; he has no

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alternative but to be evicted, and that is the impression on the tenantry. They say that they dare not look cross at the agent or the landlord, owing to their being tenants at will.

1562. What number of evictions have taken place there, or rather have there been many evictions or not on Lord George Hill's estate?—About two.

1563. If I understand you rightly, your complaint is not that there have been evictions, but you complain of this custom?—I intend to say that I have known one or two instances of eviction to take place to overawe the tenants, and show them the power with which the law invests, and which they can exercise if the tenants dare oppose or resist them.

1564. Do you attribute the poverty of this district in any material degree to this custom?—I do; but I would be sorry to attribute it entirely to that.

1565. You have given many other reasons to the Committee?—Yes.

1566. You think this is one of the additional causes?—I do.

1567. Will you come to the townland of Stramackilmartin; how many families are there?—Twelve.

1568. Are any number of them subsisting on sea-weed?—Of that 12 there are eight subsisting on sea-weed.

1569. That is to say, who use the sea-weed largely?—Yes.

1570. Are there many beds amongst them?—About four beds, I think.

1571. Would your description of the other townlands apply to this townland?—It would.

1572. And the townland of Stranacorcragh also?—Yes; there are 20 families there.

1573. Do the majority of them use sea-weed?—They do.

1574. Are their clothes and bedding of the same description as you have described before?—It is. There are some of those in Stranacorcragh who are more comfortable, I should say, than in many other townlands; they are some of them dealers; they deal in tobacco and soap, and they make a traffic between Letterkenny and Gweedore.

1575. In spite of that traffic, would you say they were all well dressed?—With the exception of two or three, the description which I have given of the dress of the others may be applied to them.

1576. Is their stock greatly reduced, or the contrary?—It is reduced.

1577. Are their circumstances deteriorated?—Very much.

1578. Would the same observation apply to the townland of Derrybeg?—There are 11 families in it, and it will apply to them.

1579. Take the townland of Ardnagappary or Middletown; there are a large number of families in that townland, are there not?—A large number.

1580. Would the same description apply to them?—It would.

1581. Could you give a description of whether the stock belonging to them has been reduced?—Considerably.

1582. In what degree?—In the case of one man, of the name of James Gallagher, he has told me himself, and I believe him, that sometime before Lord George Hill's accession to the property he had 180 sheep, 10 cows, and 2 horses, and that he has now neither sheep nor horse, but only two goats; and I understand from him that Dominic M'Bride, James M'Bride, James M'Cue, Michael Duffey, Paddy M'Bride, and widow Doogan, had had more cows in their possession than all the townland has at present.

1583. More than the entire 50 families?—Yes.

1584. Do you state that partly from information given you by people, and partly from your own observation?—From my own observation and inquiries amongst the people, of the truth of which I am morally certain.

1585. Lord *Naas.*] You state that James Gallagher and the others had a much larger quantity of stock in their possession before Lord George Hill came into possession of this estate than they have now?—What they had before he came, I do not know; previously to my own coming there, I do not know unless from what I have heard from the people.

1586. Has this which you say, with regard to James Gallagher, reference to the time before Lord George Hill came into the property?—Before Lord George Hill came into the property; I merely heard it from the people themselves; I heard it uniformly from many, and therefore it was that I considered it true.

1587. Mr. *Maguire.*] You believe it to be a correct representation of the state of things in the district?—I do, in that townland.

1588. Is

1588. Is there anything particular in connexion with the new cuts in this townland that you wish to explain to the Committee in regard to them?—There the mode of proceeding with respect to those cuts is the same as I have described before.

1589. The next townland is Meenacung; how many families are there there?—That has 10 families.

1590. Are there any of them subsisting on sea-weed?—There are.

1591. Are those people near the sea?—They are about eight miles distant from it.

1592. How many of the ten are subsisting on the sea-weed?—About six out of the ten.

1593. And you say that they are obliged to come eight miles to get it?—Yes.

1594. Are there many beds amongst them?—There is no bed in the townland except one in Connell M'Ginley's; no bed such as we have described.

1595. Have they any bed-clothes?—None.

1596. Are there chairs and tables there?—Except in Shane M'Cool's and in Connell M'Ginley's, there is no chair or table in the entire townland.

1597. Except in two cases there is no table or chair in the entire townland?—No.

1598. Would you take that as an indication of opulence?—By no means.

1599. Have they stock, or are there any of them who have not stock?—There are four out of the 10 who have no stock.

1600. Are the others reduced or not?—Connell M'Ginley is reduced from ten cows to two; James Gallagher from three cows to none; Shane M'Cool from five cows to two; James M'Ginley from nine cows to two; Ellen M'Cue from five cows to one old one.

1601. Were the rents raised upon those?—They were.

1602. From what?—They were increased from 9 *l.* 2 *s.* to 16 *l.*

1603. Would you say what number of acres were taken away from those people?—One thousand and nineteen.

1604. Do you mean commonage or top-land, or both?—Mountain.

1605. And upon which their cattle roamed before?—Yes; and on the increase of the rents and the taking away of the mountain, they decreased the tenant right value, if I may so say, of the land; James Doogan sold his land at half the price that he could formerly get for it.

1606. With regard to the townland of Magheraclogher, how many families are there on that?—Fifty-two.

1607. Are a large number living on sea-weed?—Very large.

1608. With regard to their dresses, beds, and bedding, are they the same as in other townlands?—Yes.

1609. Now take the townland of Tor; what have you to say about that?—Formerly the whole of Tor was an appendage to Magheraclogher; it was the mountain attached to Magheraclogher, and the tenants of Magheraclogher had the privilege of sending their cattle to graze on Tor.

1610. They have lost that privilege?—They have.

1611. Was their rent raised?—Their rent was increased from 39 *l.* 16 *s.* to 72*l.*

1612. In spite of that land being taken away from them, their rent was increased?—Yes.

1613. Was there any top-land taken from them?—Some part of the mountain of Tor, which formerly belonged to Magheraclogher, was let to other tenants, the rental of which is 9 *l.* 7 *s.* 9 *d.*, and there are in the landlord's own immediate possession in Tor 2,858 acres of the mountain.

1614. Did the tenants enjoy the liberty of sending their cattle to the mountain before?—Yes.

1615. That privilege is taken from them?—Yes, it is.

1616. This district is let out to sheep graziers, is it not?—Yes; the top-lands of Magheraclogher have also been parcelled out into new cots.

1617. The rent of the entire land is increased?—It is.

1618. From what?—From 39 *l.* 16 *s.* to 85 *l.* 17 *s.* 9 *d.*, and the landlord still retains in his own possession 2,858 acres.

1619. The taxes levied on this district amount to a large sum, do they not? They do.

1620. What would you say they amount to?—I do not exactly know.

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1621. The police tax was levied in the month of August last, was it not?—It was.

1622. Did the people experience much difficulty, or any, in paying this tax?—They experienced great difficulty in paying it; I should make a distinction between the collection of the police tax and the sheep tax. The first tax, the police tax, was comparatively small; it was 800 *l.*

1623. Was there a large number of constabulary sent into the district to collect it?—About 300.

1624. Who of course did everything in their power to discharge their duty with great diligence, to say the least?—They did.

1625. In fact, I believe they regularly surrounded the district?—They did, very early in the morning on which the collection was to be made.

1626. They were not very nice in discrimination as to whom the cattle belonged?—They were not.

1627. Did they drive them indiscriminately?—They did.

1628. Lord *Naas.*] What day of the month was that?—I think about the latter end of August.

1629. Mr. *Maguire.*] At any rate, did the people experience great difficulty in paying it?—They did.

1630. Do you know any instance in which they were obliged to sell their furniture and provisions?—I have already given an instance of a woman having sold her gown.

1631. You know of your own knowledge, an instance where people have sold their provisions and furniture?—I do.

1632. As well as their stock?—I do.

1633. And their crops?—I do.

1634. I suppose they were obliged to go to other places in order to borrow money to pay it?—They were; some went to the Rosses.

1635. I believe the people of the Rosses are rather more comfortable, are they not?—They are rather more comfortable.

1636. They are considerably different to the people of Gweedore in their circumstances?—They are.

1637. Is Lord George Hill the landlord of the Rosses?—No; the Most Noble the Marquis of Conyngham is the landlord.

1638. They got money in many instances from their friends in the Rosses?—They did.

1639. I believe they were also enabled to pay the tax with the wages of their children employed in neighbouring towns?—I heard a gentleman say that he himself saw persons from Gweedore at Strabane, go to a place where their child, son or daughter was hired, and get their wages in advance from the master of the child to pay the tax with. Strabane is about 50 miles distant.

1640. Do you know cases where the tax-payer had not only to pay his own tax, but his neighbour's tax?—I do.

1641. Will you say how that was?—On the cattle of one man being seized for the tax, the collector of the tax refused to liberate the cow until his neighbour's tax was paid in.

1642. Lord *Naas.*] State the names of that case?—Tague Gallagher, of Derrybeg, and Patrick O'Donnell, of Derrybeg. I can state more instances than those two.

1643. Mr. *Maguire.*] Who was the collector?—Head-constable Young.

1644. Lord *Naas.*] Do you mean to say that Head-constable Young refused to release Manus Gallagher's cattle until Patrick O'Donnell's tax was paid?—No; I mean to say that all the property they got was detained until Phelim Friel, of Derrybeg, who was a non-payer, had paid his tax; and Head-constable Young detained their property until they paid for him, because he was not able to pay himself.

1645. Mr. *Maguire.*] How do you know that?—I was at Derrybeg at the time, and I saw it done.

1646. Did Head-constable Young assign any reason for doing so?—No; I did not ask him for any reason.

1647. You state it as a positive fact, that that did occur?—I state that as a positive fact falling under my own observation; and I think I could supply the Committee with other instances too.

1648. Do you know cases where food was under seizure; the food and the crop?—Yes, I do.

1649. What do you mean by food?—I mean potatoes and corn; oats.

1650. Lord *Naas.*] When you speak of food having been seized, what time of the year was this; what month was it?—I could not positively say.

1651. Was it in the month of August?—No; it was for the sheep tax; it was later than August, I think; some time up to December, I think.

1652. Was it the pototoes in pits and the corn in stack that were seized?—No, the potatoes were in the houses, and I believe the corn was in the house also at the time; but I know the seizure was made.

1653. Were their potatoes carried away?—No, they were only under seizure; the money was guaranteed to be paid by other parties.

1654. Do you know of any instance of any cow or other beast, or any of this corn or potatoes, having been sold in consequence of this distress?—I do not.

1655. Was there any of this property that you allude to auctioned?—No.

1656. The whole tax was paid without the necessity of proceeding to that extremity?—It was, but the reason is that the people understood that they would be auctioned at a great sacrifice, at a ruinous price, and they succeeded in getting the money elsewhere; they had borrowed it, as, I have said before, of parties in the Rosses; in the parish of Rosskill, and they got the children's wages in advance.

1657. Mr. *Maguire.*] They were prepared for it?—They knew it was coming, and it was given them to understand that the auction would go on, so that it would be a great sacrifice to their property, and they made up their minds to provide themselves beforehand with the money.

1658. Lord *Naas.*] This whole sum of 2,000 *l.*, which was levied on the electorial divisions of Magheraclogher, Meenacladdy, and Dunlewey, was paid without any of this property being put up to auction?—Yes.

1659. Mr. *Maguire.*] They knew they would be obliged to sell their cows? Yes.

1660. You know there is a ruinous sacrifice of property at all cant auctions?—Yes.

1661. In case a large quantity of stock or cattle was driven to a cant auction, as a matter of course it would create a more ruinous sacrifice than if a small quantity were sent?—Certainly.

1662. I want to know something about the rate of labour in the district; what is the average rate of wages?—The average rate of wages in that district is about 8 *d.* per day in winter, and 10 *d.* generally in summer, and in exceptional cases, or during a short period, 1 *s.*

1663. In any case, is there such a rate of wages given as either 1 *s.* or 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a day for an ordinary day labourer?—No, there is not.

1664. I should rather think there is not?—There is no such rate of wages as either 1 *s.* or 1 *s.* 6 *d.*

1665. With this 8 *d.* in winter, or 10 *d.* in summer, is their food given?—No.

1666. Do you state that as a matter of your own experience?—I do; I can name the parties. The last time I was at Gweedore I heard a rumour that there was 1 *s.* 6 *d.* paid, and I inquired what rate of wages Mr. Robertson was paying.

1667. Who was he?—He is Lord George Hill's agriculturist; and I found he was then paying but 10 *d.*, and the people were obliged to diet themselves.

1668. I believe that the turf harvest, if I may call it such, lasts about a fortnight?—It does; there are greater wages given at turf-cutting; it is most laborious and fatiguing labour.

1669. Does not it require some skill also?—It does; it is a sort of handicraft; it is like mowing. There are parties who cannot mow, and there are parties who cannot cut turf; it is very fatiguing labour for the parties. The turf cut by the parties is supposed to be stretched over the whole year, and they are most anxious to make a good day's labour.

1670. You say, I think, that, subject to the exception of turf-cutting and the harvest, the rate of wages is 8 *d.* a day in winter and 10 *d.* in summer?—Yes.

1671. If I mistake not, there was a statement made by Mr. Thomas M'Lean, a gentleman in Dunfanaghy, as to his paying 2 *s.* a day to his labourers?—I believe there was, and I made inquiry at Dunfanaghy, and found that it was at turf-cutting

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that the party had been engaged, and the very time he was making that assertion he had other labourers employed at 10 *d.*, the ordinary wages.

1672. I find there has been an affidavit made by Lord George Hill, and there is this passage in it, that "at the present moment not a labouring man can be got to work even at 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a day. The affidavit was sworn in the Queen's Bench, on Tuesday, May the 4th, and the case came on on Wednesday, May the 5th. Can you, from your own knowledge, reiterate that statement of Lord George Hill's?—On the contrary, I deny it.

1673. Positively?—Positively. I believe Lord George would not have made that affidavit were he not misinformed himself. I would be sorry to state that Lord George Hill would deliberately make an assertion knowing it to be the contrary. Lord George Hill had not been in the district for some time previously. I believe he was labouring at that time under a misconception.

1674. You think your sources of information ought to be as good as those of Lord George Hill, or better?—Better than his were at that time.

1675. Do you, then, state, from your own positive knowledge, that any number of labourers could be got at that price?—I do, with the exception of the period I mentioned, and at the labour I mentioned.

1676. I am told it must be something about the 20th April; is that the time the turf is cut?—It is.

1677. You say that the rate of wages given in Magheraclogher is about 1 *s.* 6 *d.*?—I do. I positively say that, unless at turf-cutting and during the fortnight in harvest, the usual rate of wages is 10 *d.* per day.

1678. At any rate, does that statement represent the state of things now in Gweedore?—It does not.

1679. Does that statement represent the state of things at any other period, save at this special time when turf is cut?—No; nor then, unless at turf-cutting alone.

1680. You state, at all events, that the rate of wages is from 8 *d.* per day in the winter to 10 *d.* in summer?—I am positive that the labourers now employed are only getting 10 *d.* per day in that district.

1681. If I mistake not, Dunfanaghy is some distance from Gweedore, is it not?—I believe it is about 20 miles, I should say, or 15 miles, perhaps.

1682. That gentleman, Mr. M'Lean, is an hotel keeper at Dunfanaghy, is he not?—He is.

1683. To come for a moment to Mrs. Russell's estate; what is the acreage of that estate?—Mrs. Russell's property in Gweedore, or the parish of West Tullaghobegly, amounts to 9,091 acres.

1684. Do you know the townland of Moneybeg?—I do.

1685. Was the rent raised there?—It was.

1686. From what?—The former rent of that townland was five Irish guineas, amounting to 4 *l.* 11 *s.*; it is now 14 *l.*

1687. Have the people lost any of the mountain?—They had taken from them 171 acres, and some 58 acres more of it she has had parcelled out into new cuts.

1688. When was the rent of that raised?—It was lately raised; within a couple of years; since 1854.

1689. It was raised from 4 *l.* 11 *s.* to 14 *l.*?—It was.

1690. You say that the people have lost 170 acres of mountain, and also some 58 acres for new cuts, making in all 228 acres that are parcelled out in the same way as the other cuts you have spoken of?—They are, with the exception that Mrs. Russell has built a house on one or two of those cuts.

1691. Are they paying anything for the cuts?—The condition upon which they enter into possession is, that they are to pay 1 *s.* per acre for the first year, 2 *s.* for the second, 3 *s.* for the third, and so on, until the rental per acre amounts to 10 *s.*

1692. Was the house built for the people, or did they build it?—I think it was built for some of them, and for others it was not.

1693. Is this a very flourishing townland?—No; there are eight families, and four of those are very destitute.

1694. Do they use the sea-weed?—They do.

1695. Are they near the sea-shore?—No; they are some eight miles from it.

1696. Are their circumstances generally very poor?—Very poor.

1697. Would the description you have given of other townlands apply to the food, bedding and clothing of this townland?—It is applicable to this.

1698. Now, the townland of Baltinny, what was the old rent of that?—There are 572 acres in that townland, and the old rent was raised from five Irish guineas, or 5 *l.* 13 *s.* 9 *d.*, to 14 *l.* 12 *s.*

1699. The rent was raised from 5 *l.* 13 *s.* 9 *d.* to 14 *l.* 12 *s.*?—Yes.

1700. Was the rent raised upon the bailiff?—It was; he held the principal part of Baltinny, and he has died in consequence of his rent being raised.

1701. Who announced to him that his rent was raised?—It was announced to him on a day when he was from home; he was a very irritable man, and he fell into a passion, and I believe suddenly died; and the very coroner who valued the property of this person, afterwards held the coroner's inquest over him.

1702. Come now to the townland of Crolly; what is the old rent, and what is the new rent; is this Mrs. Russell's also?—It is; the old rent of Crolly was 19 *l.*; it is now 48 *l.*

1703. Does that include the charge for the mountain?—The rent upon the tenants holding patches of arable land is 36 *l.*; for the mountain, 12 *l.*

1704. Had they the mountain privilege before?—They had; they had the privilege of grazing upon the mountain of Crolly.

1705. Are the people poor?—They are.

1706. Do they also live on sea-weed?—They do.

1707. Are they near the sea-shore?—In some parts they are three or four miles, and in others four or five miles away from the sea.

1708. Now come to the townland of Lockeel?—It is a sub-denomination of Crolly. The old rent of this land was 5 *l*, and the new rent is 18 *l.*

1709. Speaking of these two townlands, the townlands that are the property of Mrs. Russell, do you say that the clothing is sufficient for the females there?—It is not so bad as on Lord George Hill's estate.

1710. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] You do not mean, when you say that they subsist on sea-weed, that they use nothing else but sea-weed?—By no means.

1711. You mean that they mix sea-weed with the potatoes and other food?—Exactly, and that it forms a substantial part of their diet.

1712. Mr. *Maguire.*] You understood me as meaning that in all the questions that I put to you?—Yes.

Veneris, 11° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bagwell.
Sir John Yarde Buller.
Mr. Serjeant Deasy.
Mr. Dobbs.
Sir Edmund Hayes.
Mr. Maguire.
Mr. Philip Wykeham Martin.
Lord Naas.
Sir Wm. Somerville.

JOHN BAGWELL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

The Reverend *John Doherty*, called in; and further Examined.

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1713. Mr. *Maguire.*] YOU were being examined yesterday with regard to Loughkiel; are the people better off in that townland than they are in other places?—There are only a few tenants in Loughkiel altogether.

1714. What is their condition?—The tenants are not so badly off there as they are in the other townlands, and the reason I assign is, that though Mrs. Russell has threatened to increase the rent I believe they do not pay an increased rent.

1715. Has the Rev. Alexander Nixon property in Gweedore?—He has.

1716. Has he a large quantity of land there?—He has a considerable portion of land there; he has 3,212 acres.

1717. Do you know the townland of Brinlack?—I do.

1718. Does that include any other?—Yes, the townland of Bunininver and Glasshagh.

1719. What is the number of acres there?—The number of acres in Brinlack is 1,292.

1720. What was the valuation in 1840?—£. 38. 17 *s.* 6 *d.*

1721. And in 1857, what was it?—£. 76. 10 *s.*

1722. Exclusive of the buildings?—Yes, by Griffith's valuation.

1723. Is that townland subdivided?—It is subdivided into four parts; Upper, Lower, Far, and Near, and another sub-denomination, called Bunininver.

1724. Take Upper Brinlack; how many cows' grass does it contain?—Upper Brinlack contains 16 cows' grass.

1725. What is the old rent on each cows' grass?—Thirteen shillings and sixpence; amounting in all to 10 *l.* 16 *s.*

1726. What is the present rent on each cow's grass?—£1. 4 *s.* 3 *d.*

1727. What is the total?—£. 19. 8 *s.*

1728. Now Brinlack Lower, what does that contain?—It contains 12 cows' grass.

1729. What was it formerly let at?—It was let at 13 *s.* 6 *d.* per cow's grass, amounting to 8 *l.* 2 *s.*

1730. Has that rent been raised?—It has been raised from 13 *s.* 6 *d.* to 1 *l.* 12 *s.* 4 *d.* per cow's grass.

1731. Making a total of 19 *l.* 8 *s.*?—Yes.

1732. Now Brinlack Far; what does that contain?—It contains 12 cows' grass.

1733. What was the old rent?—It was 13 *s.* 6 *d.* per cow's grass.

1734. What is the new rent?—£. 1. 7 *s.* per cow's grass.

1735. In Brinlack Near, how many cow's grass are there?—Twelve.

1736. Is the rent raised there?—It is raised from 13 *s.* 6 *d.* to 1 *l.* 12 *s.* 4 *d.*

1737. What was the total rise of rent?—The old rent on Brinlack was 45 *l.* 10 *s.*, and the new rent is 114 *l.* 5 *s.* 6 *d.*, including rent for the new cuts; exclusive of the rent for the new cuts, it is 106 *l.* 8 *s.*

1738. From

1738. From what source do you derive your information?—I derive it from looking at the receipts of the tenants for the rents that they were paying, and we also inquired of Mr. Nixon's bailiff and from the people themselves, and I heard them repeatedly complain that they had been raised from the old rent, and they had some fears that it would be raised to a larger one.

1739. Have you taken the trouble to arrive at what you consider to be an accurate knowledge of the state of things?—As far as possible I have, and any thing that I was doubtful of I did not insert in my notes.

1740. Have you any reason to believe that the statement is in any way exaggerated?—I have not. I have the names of the parties who have the new cuts, if the Committee wish it.

1741. Who is the proprietor of the townland of Glasshagh?—The Rev. Alexander Nixon.

1742. Sir *W. Somerville.*] When did this general increase of rent take place on Mr. Nixon's property?—Since 1853, I should say.

1743. Was it at an earlier date than the raising of the rents on Lord George Hill's estate?—Nearly about the same time; I did not think at that time that I would be called upon to give evidence before the Committee, or I would have made a note of it, but it was about the same time; there was not much difference in point of time.

1744. Lord *Naas.*] Could you give the rent of those holdings before the year of famine, that is, before 1846?—I think I could; the rent on the estate up to that time was the old rent of 13*s.* 6*d.* per cow's grass.

1745. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was there any land taken from the tenantry on this townland of Brinlack that you are speaking of?—About 622 acres.

1746. What part of that was made into new cuts?—There were 45 acres of it.

1747. What was the value of that before, per acre?—Something less than 2*d.* per acre.

1748. What is it charged now?—Three shillings and sixpence.

1749. Do they use sea-weed to a large extent upon this townland?—Yes; I should mention that for the commonage of the mountain taken away, there are about 577 acres that Mr. Nixon is charging grazing from those who had formerly the privilege of grazing upon it themselves.

1750. Is the poor-rate charged to the occupier?—It is.

1751. And the property-tax, also?—It is, I believe.

1752. Are you certain that the poor-rate is charged to the occupier?—I am, throughout this townland.

1753. Even though the tenants are paying a rent under 4*l.* a year?—Yes, otherwise it would not be noticed at all; it would be the ordinary thing that it should be charged if the valuation was above 4*l.*

1754. Are you positive that both the poor-rate and the property-tax are charged to the tenants paying under 4*l.* a year?—As to the property-tax I am not so sure, but as to the poor-rate, I am.

1755. Lord *Naas.*] Is that by an arrangement between the tenant and the landlord?—The tenant could not refuse it; any tenant refusing to do what Mr. Nixon wishes, he could eject.

1756. Are you aware that the law as it stands does not render the occupier liable to pay the poor-rate, if he is an occupier under 4*l.*?—I am; and the clerk at the Dunfanaghy Union told Mr. Nixon that he was acting illegally in charging the poor rates, and he said that he would change it to another name, but he would still charge it.

1757. Did the clerk at the Dunfanaghy Union tell you that?—He did.

1758. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Are you sure that he charges income-tax to the tenants, too?—I am not so positive of that, I only heard so; but I am positive as to the poor-rates.

1759. Mr. *Dobbs.*] How do you know as to the poor rates?—I saw it marked on the receipts, and the clerk at the Dunfanaghy Union told me that Mr. Nixon charged it.

1760. What receipts did you see?—The receipts given by Mr. Nixon to his tenants on the payment of rent, and it was marked, first, payment for rent, and secondly, so much for poor-rates; and I saw by the receipts that the rental amounted to no more than 1*l.*, and in some instances 13*s.*, and in some 2*l.*

1761. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is the tenant charged anything for the liberty to make

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kelp of the sea-weed?—He is. He is charged a halfpenny per shilling; that is 10 *d.* per 1 *l.*

1762. You say that the tenant is charged 10 *d.* per 1 *l.* for the liberty of making kelp of the sea-weed?—He is.

1763. Is that in proportion to his rent?—It is.

1764. Do you mean that he is charged 10 *d.* on the 1 *l.* on his rent for this liberty?—He is.

1765. Is that a general practice?—I do not think it is practised by any other landowner in that district but himself.

1766. Is that applicable to all those tenants?—Yes, but it did not come into operation till last year.

1767. Is it applicable to all the tenants on Mrs. Nixon's property?—All the tenants on that townland in Gweedore, in Brinlack, and Glasshagh.

1768. Who is the proprietor of Glasshagh?—The Rev. Mr. Nixon.

1769. Has there been an increase of rent?—There has.

1770. Did the people of this townland lose any portion of the mountain?—They lost 1,318 acres.

1771. Are you positive of that?—I am.

1772. Lord *Naas.*] Since when?—Since Mr. Nixon's succession to the property; within the last three or four years.

1773. Mr. *Maguire.*] Are the tenants charged for grazing on them now?—They are.

1774. Are the tenants on this townland charged with the poor-rate?—They are.

1775. Are you certain as to the property-tax?—I am not certain as to the property-tax.

1776. Are they also charged kelp money?—They are.

1777. Are those people very prosperous?—They are very poor.

1778. Do they use sea-weed extensively?—They do.

1779. When I ask you do the people use sea-weed, do you understand me to mean that they live exclusively upon it?—No; it enters substantially into their dietary, and without it they would suffer extreme hunger, and perhaps they would suffer death.

1780. Had the people the privilege of grazing their cattle upon the sandbanks?—Previously to Mr. Nixon's coming to the property they had.

1781. Have they now that privilege?—No; he deprived them of the privilege of grazing upon the sandbanks some three or four years ago, and he re-let it again at 2 *s.* 6 *d.* per cow's grass, making it a matter of 6 *l.* to the townland.

1782. Lord *Naas.*] They paid nothing for this before, did they?—No.

1783. Mr. *Maguire.*] The sand is encroaching, is it not, upon the arable land in this townland, as well as elsewhere?—Yes; about 40 acres, I am given to understand, is nearly covered with sand.

1784. Do you wish to say anything further with regard to this townland?—No more than to say, that if the system pursued by Mr. Nixon upon the townland is persevered in, I believe the people will not be able to live.

1785. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] What system do you refer to?—The system of taking from them the mountain, continuing the rack-renting, charging the poor-rates, and charging the money for making kelp.

1786. Mr. *Maguire.*] With regard to the clothing of the people on that townland that your attention has now been called to, is it in a bad or good condition?—Very bad.

1787. Is it comfortable, in fact?—It is not.

1788. Are you positive of that?—I am very positive.

1789. Any man who would say that the clothing of those people is comfortable, would not be speaking accurately?—No, he would not, I am positive.

1790. You know those people?—Yes.

1791. Have you gone amongst them?—Yes.

1792. Have you been in their houses?—Repeatedly.

1793. Have you seen any women whose clothing was not fit for the purposes of decency?—I have, frequently.

1794. Have you seen them on this townland?—Yes, on this townland; I know four or five, or perhaps six families on this townland that have only one covering

at

at night; and I know families in the townland that are not able to come out on Sundays to chapel.

1795. On that property that you are now speaking of?—Yes; and I know that persons when they come to chapel on Sunday are obliged to borrow from their neighbours, and the same on going to fair or market.

1796. Do you know, as a fact, that many of those people abstain from going to mass on Sunday, in consequence of the wretchedness of their appearance?—I know it as a positive fact.

1797. Will you come now to the townland of Meenaclady; who was the landlord of that?—Mr. Woodhouse.

1798. What is the extent of his property there?—He has 1,955 acres.

1799. Has the rent been raised much there, or in the same proportion as in the other districts?—There are 36 cows' grass in Meenaclady, and the rental of that formerly was 18 *s* 4½ *d*. per cow's grass, making a total of 33 *l*. 1*s*. 6 *d*. They are now paying 1 *l*. 7 *s*. 6 *d*. per cow's grass, making a total of 49 *l*. 10 *s*.; and there are eight new cuts let at 1 *l*. 16 *s*. per cut, making 14 *l*. 8 *s*.

1800. Did the people enjoy the use of the land out of which those new cuts have been made?—They did.

1801. Was there any portion of the mountain taken from them?—At the first there was a large portion of the mountain taken from them, as I considered something like 1,330 acres, and I understand that on a representation made by the tenants to Mr. Woodhouse, he has restored them some 500 acres of it, but still they have lost somewhere about 600 or 700 acres.

1802. Was a person named Hanson brought upon this property by Mr. Woodhouse?—There was; but as to him, I do not know much more than that he has failed.

1803. Did that man succeed?—He did not; he sowed about 72 acres of land, and I believe that he was unable to take from it the amount of the seed sown.

1804. Are the people of this district poor?—In stock they are not so poor as in others.

1805. They are not so much reduced in stock as elsewhere?—No.

1806. Do you know the townland of Glashercoo?—Yes.

1807. Who is the landlord?—Mr. Wybrants Olphert. There are 25 families in that townland in a very wretched condition, with the exception of two or three.

1808. You say that, with the exception of two families, the 25 are very wretched?—They are.

1809. Were you amongst them?—I was.

1810. Did you see their clothing and bedding?—I did.

1811. Could it be worse than it is?—If it were worse than it is it would be entirely useless.

1812. Are their clothes comfortable?—No.

1813. If any one said they were comfortably clad, that person would not speak the truth?—He would not, I am positive.

1814. Do they partially subsist upon sea-weed?—They do.

1815. With regard to the townland of Keeldrum in Cloughaneely, do you know it?—I do.

1816. Who is the landlord?—Mr. Wybrants Olphert.

1817. Did you visit this townland lately?—I did.

1818. When?—In May this year.

1819. In what condition did you find the people then?—I went from house to house, and I found them extremely poor and wretched.

1820. How many houses did you visit?—I should say from 20 to 22 houses.

1821. Will you describe their condition?—They were extremely poor. I have taken notes of them, if the Committee wish me to read them.

1822. Will you give the Committee the general result; was their bedding bad?—Very bad; the same as I have described in other parts of Gweedore.

1823. Was it more than a mere wisp of straw?—It was a mere wisp of straw. With the exception of one or two houses, I did not meet with a chaff bed in the district.

1824. With regard to the day clothes of the people, were they comfortable or not?—They were very badly clothed.

1825. Was the clothing of the women, so far as you saw it, sufficient for the purposes of decency?—It was not; nor even sufficient to screen their persons.

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1826. Did you find in any case that the women made an attempt to veil their persons by crossing their arms on their bosoms?—I did, on more than one occasion.

1827. Will you just describe what they did?—On entering some of the houses, in one or two instances the women were so extremely bare about the neck, and their bosoms were so exposed, that I saw them cross their arms over their bosoms in such a manner as to screen themselves from the gaze of the persons that were with me.

1828. Did that happen in more than one instance?—Yes, and often too in Gweedore.

1829. Did you on that townland see a person comfortably dressed?—I did not. There was a young female living in that townland called Kate Boyle, who holds a portion of land, and her brother is at wages in England, and she was extremely destitute; the clothes on her person were not sufficient to cover her, and there were rents in her dress that you could see her skin through.

1830. What age was she?—About 22 or 23 years; she was a grown woman.

1831. Does the description which you have given of the other places apply to the food of this townland?—It does.

1832. Do they generally use the sea-weed?—Yes.

1833. Did you examine as to the quantity of food that these people had that we are now speaking of in the townland of Keeldrum?—I did not visit them till after some relief had been distributed by the Rev. Mr. McFadden, but the portion of food of their own that they had in their houses on that occasion was very scanty, something about 14 or 15 stone of potatoes, and some meal, but not more than would support a family, if they used it liberally for three weeks, some of them for a fortnight, and some of them for only three days.

1834. If this relief had not been given to them, they would have been reduced to a state of extreme destitution, would they not?—They would.

1835. Who is the landlord of the townland of Ballyboes?—The Rev. Mr. Nixon.

1836. Are the people on that townland poor or otherwise?—Extremely poor.

1837. Did they lose a large portion of the mountain?—About 1000 acres.

1838. Had they comfortable beds?—They had not, with the exception of two or three.

1839. Did you personally visit that townland?—I did.

1840. You speak from your own observation, do you not?—I do.

1841. Do they also use sea-weed?—They do.

1842. With regard to the townland of Dunmore, who was the landlord of it?—Lord Leitrim.

1843. Are the people poor on that townland?—Very poor.

1844. Did they lose the mountain?—They did.

1845. Do they pay the poor-rates?—They pay the poor-rates.

1846. Do those holdings under 4*l.* pay them?—Yes.

1847. Do you know the townland of Moneymore?—I do.

1848. Who is the landlord of that townland?—Lord Leitrim.

1849. Has the rent been increased there?—It has; he has advanced the rents from about 19*l.* to about 40*l.*

1850. Lord *Naas.*] Since when?—Since 1853.

1851. Mr. *Maguire.*] Have the tenants lost the use of the mountains?—They have.

1852. Lord *Naas.*] What has become of the land that Lord Leitrim took away from the tenants?—He holds it in fee in his own possession.

1853. Are there any cattle on it?—I do not know.

1854. Do the tenants pay rent for that land?—They do not.

1855. Did they, before it was taken away from them?—Before that I should say there was no distinction made between the mountain and the spots of land that they had then cultivated; it was only of late that the landlords deprived the people of the right of grazing cattle upon the mountains.

1856. They never paid for the right of grazing upon the mountains?—They had all in common; there was no distinction made; they looked upon themselves as paying rent for so much arable land, and that the mountain was an appurtenance to it.

1857. Do you recollect the state of things on Lord Leitrim's estate?—I do.

1858. Do you know whether the people kept a sufficient number of cattle on this mountain to eat the grass on it?—I cannot say; I should think they did.

1859. You

1859. You think that the number of cattle that the people kept on the mountain was as much as are kept on it now?—In cases when they had not sufficient cattle of their own, they got grazing from other parties.

1860. Where did the grazing come from?—I cannot say.

1861. Did they come from as far as Letterkenny?—They might.

1862. They obtained grazing cattle from distant parts of the country, for which they received money?—Yes.

1863. Do you know what they received?—I do not.

1864. Was the practice general over this district of Gweedore?—In some cases it was and in others it was not.

1865. Did the people ever take grazing cattle in on Lord George Hill's estate in this way?—I believe they did; and Lord George Hill himself takes them in from some parties.

1866. Can you tell the Committee what the people received for those grazing cattle?—I cannot.

1867. Did they receive what you call the valuable cow's grass?—I cannot say what they received.

1868. What time of the year did those cattle generally come?—In the spring.

1869. And did they stay until autumn?—Yes.

1870. You do not know how much they received for that?—I do not; they managed it so that every townland had a certain portion of mountain allotted to it; I believe they arranged it amongst themselves; there might be a poor man in the townland who had no stock to put on the mountain, supposing there are 20 men living on a certain townland, and of that 20 there were five who had not sufficient stock of their own to put along with their neighbours, then in order to compensate themselves for the loss of their stock, they used to get grazing cattle from other parties and put them with the others, and the other 15 did not object to it.

1871. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is not the deprivation of that privilege of grazing their own cattle and others that were sent to them a loss to those people?—It is a great loss to the community at large.

1872. Is it not an individual loss to them also?—It is to the tenants and to the whole district.

1873. According to what you state they either had a right to feed their own cattle or to give grazing to the cattle of other people for which they were paid?—Exactly.

1874. They were deprived of this also?—They were.

1875. Do you know that the deprivation of this right has caused distress to the people?—It has.

1876. Lord *Naas.*] You have called it a right; had the people any legal right, do you imagine, to put their own cattle, or to take in grazing cattle of other people, on this mountain?—I do not know about the legality; I merely state the custom of the district.

1877. Was it ever alleged that this mountain was so far commonage that the people occupying land about it had a legal right to it?—They thought that they had a right to it.

1878. Was it ever alleged as a legal right?—I do not know about a legal right; but it is the custom.

1879. Mr. *Maguire.*] Had they practically the use of it?—They used it.

1880. They were never prevented until recently?—Never.

1881. They were prevented when the mountains were taken from them?—Exactly.

1882. The use of it has ceased?—Exactly, and the tenants formerly had the use of it.

1883. Lord *Naas.*] How long had they used it; from how far back?—From the recollection of any person there they always had it.

1884. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did they use that power from time immemorial?—Exactly.

1885. Will you give an explanation to the Committee in reference to what one of the witnesses said as to the idea that prevailed among the people that they were refused the right to take away the sea-weed?—I think that the idea that Lord George Hill did prevent the people from making use of the sea-weed was a misconception. It was stated to the Committee by some other witnesses that the people were saying that Lord George Hill and other landowners were prohibiting the people from using sea-weed for food. I believe that to be a misconception.

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1886. Arising from what fact?—Lord George Hill and others have shore bailiffs to prevent the people from taking away the sea-weed for manuring purposes; and it happened that last year, when there was great hunger, the people had recourse to this shore that belonged to Lord George Hill. The shorekeeper, finding a large quantity of sea-weed disappearing, thought he was not discharging his duty properly if he did not check it. On one occasion, two or three women with bags went to this shore to collect the sea-weed for the purpose of food; the shore bailiff checked them, and told them he would not let them have the sea-weed any longer, but upon apprising Lord George Hill's agent of the fact, he said that they should not be prevented. Those people circulated a report that they had been prevented, and a misconception arose from that fact. But there are shore bailiffs upon other parts of the district who are appointed by the people themselves; it is, perhaps, hard for strangers to conceive of this, but every townland has a part of the shore attached to itself, and a party from another townland cannot have recourse to it; they think they have a right to that shore exclusive of other townlands, and they appoint a shore bailiff to prevent parties belonging to another townland taking away the sea-weed from that shore.

1887. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Are the Committee to understand you to say that the landlords do not interfere with the people taking as much sea-weed as they choose, for the purposes of eating?—Yes, precisely.

1888. As long as they confine it for the mere purposes of eating, they let them take it in any quantity they like?—They do.

1889. Lord *Naas.*] So that the sea-weed on the sea-shore belonging to each townland is supposed to belong to the people who live in it?—Yes, for the purposes of manuring and making kelp, and using it for food.

1890. Mr. *Maguire.*] Am I right in stating that you suggested to me the necessity of having this matter cleared up before the Committee?—I did, because I am positive that Lord George Hill or his agent would not prevent the people from using it.

1891. So far as you know, no landlord has done it?—No, except in the case where there is a fixed amount paid for the use of it as kelp.

1892. Lord *Naas.*] That is on Mr. Nixon's estate; is it the practice on Lord George Hill's to pay rent for the use of kelp?—No, it is not; it is only the practice to make a payment on Mr. Nixon's estate.

1893. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Has it been long paid?—Only one year, last year.

1894. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Are you aware that in Scotland high rents are paid for sea-weed in some parts?—I believe it is so.

1895. Mr. *Maguire.*] In reference to the destruction of sheep in the Gweedore district, is it your opinion that there is a wide-spread conspiracy for the purpose of effecting that object there?—I believe there is none; that is my belief.

1896. Is it a fact that there has been a conviction against persons who live at a considerable distance from Gweedore for having stolen and kept some of those sheep?—It is a fact that two persons from Garton, a distance of at least 17 or 18 miles from Gweedore, have been convicted at the last assizes for feloniously having in their possession stolen sheep, knowing them to have been stolen; and on the previous assizes a grand-jury warrant was issued for the collection of the value of those sheep alleged to have been maliciously destroyed by the peasants of Gweedore, and those sheep were afterwards found living in the possession of other parties.

1897. Lord *Naas.*] How many sheep were there?—Five, I understand.

1898. How were they identified?—They were identified by the Scotch shepherds afterwards.

1899. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was there a conviction?—There was.

1900. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You say that there was a conviction at the last assizes for sheep which had been stolen; were they included in the presentment of that assizes?—I think they were; they were missing at the time.

1901. I wish to know whether the whole of those five sheep were included in that presentment for the malicious injury to the sheep in that district?—I believe they were; I think it was at the last summer assizes.

1902. Lord *Naas.*] At which assizes did this take place?—I do not know which assizes exactly.

1903. At which assizes was it that this presentment was made?—In the summer assizes of last year the presentment was made, and in the spring assizes I think the parties were convicted.

1904. Do you state that those five sheep that have been alluded to were included in the presentment made at the last summer assizes?—I do. The reason why I believe it was so is this, that the presentment was made for the number of sheep that were missing off the mountains; the parties who were making application for compensation for the malicious destruction of the sheep could not have known that those five sheep were in the possession of the Dohertys, who were transported, and, as a matter of course, they thought that they were maliciously destroyed by persons of the district; and it afterwards turned out that those sheep were found living in the possession of the parties convicted.

1905. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Who was the owner of those sheep?—Mr. Wright.

1906. Are you aware that at the last summer assizes a presentment was made for some sheep of his having been destroyed maliciously, and that the stolen sheep were deducted from the number supposed to have been destroyed maliciously?—I do not know how they could arrive at the number of stolen sheep at all.

1907. Mr. *Maguire.*] Were you present at the trial?—I was.

1908. Did you hear a shepherd of the name of Sillico, Mr. Wright's shepherd, swear that his master had got compensation for those sheep?—He did.

1909. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Are you aware that a ram in Mr. Wright's flock of sheep was found with a string tied round his testicles in such a way as to leave no doubt that there was malice intended?—In that instance there would be malice.

1910. That was part of the flock of sheep that was stolen, and which you say were presented for?—Yes; but still the sheep were not destroyed; they were stolen, and sold by the party who stole them.

1911. Mr. *Dobbs.*] How many of those sheep were there besides the five?—I do not know.

1912. How many were presented for?—There were 865 presented for, I think.

1913. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is it your belief that a number of those sheep strayed?—It is.

1914. Is it your belief that a number of those sheep presented for strayed and were lost?—It is.

1915. Is it your belief that a number of them were sacrificed by the inclemency of the season and exposure?—It is.

1916. Do you know, of your own knowledge, that the people of the district of Gweedore have themselves lost a large number of sheep within one year?—In the very year in which the Scotch sheep were lost, I am aware that at least 1,000 sheep have been lost by the natives of the district. How I arrived at that knowledge was this: I called upon the people to furnish me with a list of the sheep that they had lost in that year; and I called on them, in the most solemn way, to tell me the truth, and I have no doubt they desired to furnish me with an accurate list, and I found that nearly 1,500 had been lost by the natives of the district.

1917. Lord *Naas.*] Could you give the names of some of the people who lost those sheep?—I have the whole list at home; but I did not bring it.

1918. Can you send it?—I can.

1919. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] When were they lost?—In the very year which the Scotch sheep were lost in; because it was a very inclement and severe winter.

1920. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What winter was that?—The winter, I should say, of 1856.

1921. Lord *Naas.*] Will you put in to the Committee a list of the names of persons that you understand to have lost sheep through the inclemency of the season?—I had the list with me at Lifford assizes, and I handed the list to Mr. M'Crossen; but I think he gave it back to me; I am not quite sure, but I have not the list with me here.

1922. Mr. *Maguire.*] Before ever a question arose as to the destruction of those Scotch sheep, do you know, of your own knowledge, that the people of the district of Gweedore had from time to time lost portions of their flock by exposure or by straying?—I did.

1923. This is one; was it or was it not a constant cause of loss to the people?—It was; and I know that in this way I have been often called on, as the Roman Catholic priest of the district, to announce to the congregation the loss of those sheep, and to call upon them, if they found them straying, to apprise me of it, in order that I might apprise the owners of it.

1924. How many men would there be to a flock of Scotch sheep who would be appointed to watch them?—About four or five.

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1925. To what number of sheep?—I am not so conversant with that, but it would be a large number.

1926. There would be several hundred, would there not?—More than several hundred.

1927. About five or six to look after them?—About five or six to look after them.

1928. What would be the average number of sheep belonging to one of the poor people that you have described?—They would average from about 10 to 15 sheep.

1929. In fact, there was one man whose special interest was to watch this very small stock of sheep?—Yes.

1930. And in spite of the interest and vigilance of this man that small stock was diminished by this loss by either exposure or straying?—It was.

1931. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Were those 15,000 sheep that were lost found either in bog-holes, or in lakes, or any other way?—Not any under the circumstances that you have described.

1932. Were they found under any circumstances?—Some were and some were not.

1933. How many were found?—I do not know, but none under circumstances which would indicate malice.

1934. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Could you give the Committee any idea what proportion those that were lost bore to the whole number of sheep of the district?—I could not.

1935. Mr. *Maguire.*] As well as you could give an idea, what was the proportion of loss to the extent of the flocks; did they lose one-fourth?—Sometimes more; in that year, I believe, they lost about half; some of them have a large number of sheep, and others of them have only a small number of sheep.

1936. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] What proportion was lost of the flocks of Scotch sheep that were put on the mountains?—I do not know; it is the usual custom in Gweedore for the sons and daughters of the little farmers to go to wages, and they purchase a sheep or two, and they give over the care of those sheep to the parents at home, and when they come to market they sell them, and the property belongs to the sons and daughters.

1937. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Where do they go to service?—Near Derry and about Strabane, and in all directions; some go to England, and some to Scotland, and other places.

1938. Mr. *Maguire.*] I suppose you do not intend to ask the Committee to rely implicitly upon the accuracy of this statement as to the 1,500 sheep: there may, you think, be some exaggeration?—Certainly; I only said about 1,000 myself.

1939. Even though you hand in that list, you yourself do not mean to have it impressed upon the Committee that your idea is that more than 1,000 have been lost?—No, it is not my idea.

1940. I need not ask you whether you have always impressed upon the people the necessity of preserving peace, good order, and morality?— I certainly did.

1941. Have you done everything in your power to preserve the peace and good order of the district?—I did.

1942. Have you any remark to make to the Committee on that?—I think that if it had not been for my individual exertions in some cases, matters would have gone to extremities in consequence of the irritated feelings of the peasantry on the occasion of taking away the mountains.

1943. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] What do you mean by "extremities"?—Taking away human life. I can say that I have been the means of saving more than two or three human lives.

1944. Mr. *Maguire.*] Can you give the Committee some idea as to the moral character of the people of the district?—They are very pure and very moral.

1945. With regard to that appeal which you addressed to the public, was it issued in the full belief of the truth of the statements made in it?—It was; and not only do I say that now, but I have already sworn to it.

1946. Has your further experience substantiated every assertion that you made in that appeal?—It has, and I am convinced now that it was an understatement rather than the contrary; and not only do I state that, but Dr. M'Gettigan, my bishop, stated the same thing. In a letter to the secretary he said that he was sure the statements in the appeal were rather under than over the mark.

1947. Since

1947. Since that appeal was issued to the public you have gone over some of this district yourself, have you not?—I have.

1948. Have you personally inquired into the condition of the people?—I have.

1949. Did you find such a state of things as fully warrants you in the assertion that that appeal was rather under than overstated?—I did.

1950. That is your deliberate assertion to the Committee?—That is my deliberate assertion to the Committee.

1951. Was there a large sum of money subscribed by the charity of the public as a relief fund?—Something above 2,000 *l.*

1952. Has a large portion of that been applied immediately to the relief of the people of the district?—About 1,600 *l.* out of that 2,000 *l.*

1953. Then, I suppose there is a balance of something like 400 *l.* in hand?—Something more; I think there is about 500 *l.* in hand.

1954. Has any portion of that money been applied to any other purpose than that of relieving the destitution in which the appeal originated?—It has not.

1955. Are you positive of that?—I am quite positive of it, nor do we intend (and we have already affirmed it in an affidavit) to apply any portion of that money, unless for the purposes set forth in the appeal.

1956. Had you ever any intention of applying any portion of that money, or what you purchased with it, to any other purpose than the relief of that destitute district?—Never.

1957. If it were stated that you were about applying some 20 *l.* or 40 *l.*, or some very small sum to the relief of the destitution, and applying the rest to other objects, would that be a practical calumny upon your intentions and acts?—It would.

1958. Are there some persons ready, if necessary, to give a statement of the expenditure?—The Treasurer is ready to give a statement of the outlay.

1959. Who is he?—The Reverend Mr. M'Gee; I was merely the secretary; I sent all the money to Mr. Gallagher's clerk, or Mr. M'Gee, with the exception of 30*l.*

1960. Did you spend any portion of the money in clothing?—About 600 *l.* or 700 *l.*

1961. Was there any portion given to the tenants as a means of enabling them to crop their ground?—Yes, about 300 *l.*

1962. Was there any attempt made either on your part, or on the part of the people, to get up anything like an exhibition of poverty, for the inspection or the observation of strangers?—Certainly not.

1963. The day was appointed for the distribution of the relief before those people came, was it not?—It was; and the reason why we asked Mr. Williams of the "Evening Post" (and I also wrote a letter of invitation at the same time to the editor of the "Evening Mail") to assist at the distribution, was in order that the public might arrive at the true state of the district; because there were some efforts made by parties to dry up the channel of charity; and I knew that if those gentlemen saw the district themselves, they would not gainsay what we had stated.

1964. There was no attempt, in short, at a dramatic exhibition?—Not the least.

1965. There was no dressing of the people in rags for the occasion?—No; the people did not know that those strangers were coming there at all.

1966. There has been something said about some portion of the mountain being left to the tenantry of Lord Hill; do you know anything about that?—I do.

1967. Will you state to the Committee what you know about it?—Along the base of a mountain called Meenderryamph, there is a considerably large tract of mountain left as commonage for the people, but it is unfenced, and it is at such a considerable distance from the parties who had the privilege to use it that they looked upon it as not worth sending their cows to it; and in the case of the parties who did send their cows or sheep to it; if they trespassed across the other portion their cows were impounded; and I understood (and I believe it) on my visiting Gweedore that they had paid upwards of 2 *l.*, which was a considerable sum to them, for pounding.

1968. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Is there any fence on the mountain?—I think not.

1969. Mr. *Maguire.*] Allow me to call your attention for one moment to the Minutes of the Inquiry before the Poor Law Inspector; I find that Mr. Thomas Olphert swears, "From my own observation of the people of Cloughaneely, I have no hesitation in saying that they are better clothed this year than they have been for some years past." Do you corroborate or deny that statement

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from your own observation?—I deny it; and I do not think that Mr. Olphert is in a position to judge.

1970. Why do you think so?—He is labouring under a physical infirmity which renders him unable to visit those houses, unless on the road side.

1971. At any rate you state deliberately, from your own observation, that that is not a faithful representation of the state of things?—I do; but I say this for the purpose of remarking, that I do not think that Mr. Olphert would assert the contrary, if he knew it.

1972. Do you believe that there is a very large supply of food in the hands of the peasantry of Cloughaneely?—There are portions of Cloughaneely as to which I do not mean to say that they have no means of sustenance, but the portions which lost the mountain, and suffer from taxation, certainly have not the means of supporting themselves.

1973. How far is Burtonport from the Gweedore district?—There are two ways of going to it; you can go over the arm of the sea by boat, and in that way I should say it is not more than 15 miles; but by the road, I should say it is 18 miles or 20 miles.

1974. Will you state to the Committee whether the sale of a quantity of herrings, valued at 500 *l.* in Burtonport, would be an evidence of prosperity in Gweedore?—By no means.

1975. Will you explain why?—Because the people of Gweedore have no communications whatever with Burtonport; and it would be an indication of the prosperity of the Marquess of Conyngham's tenants rather than of the people in Gweedore.

1976. With regard to the sale of a large quantity of herrings, which took place in Burtonport some time in February, do you know whether any large quantity of those herrings went into Gweedore?—About twelve barrels only.

1977. So that the fact of two barrels of those herrings being sold in Gweedore is no great evidence of the prosperity of the district?—It is no evidence at all.

1978. You do not look upon it as at all refuting any of the statements in your appeal?—I do not.

1979. Mr. *P. Wykcham Martin.*] A great deal of stress has been laid upon the fact, that the peasantry had no shoes or stockings; in Ireland, in the north-west districts, do the peasantry ever wear shoes and stockings in the usual way, or do they ever wear them except on Sundays, or such occasions?—Those who are comfortably circumstanced do.

1980. When you use the term "comfortably circumstanced," do you mean farmers or peasantry?—Farmers.

1981. You do not mean such people as you have been describing to the Committee?—Even of those that I have described; those who are in better circumstances than others use them, at least the men do.

1982. But as to the women?—They are not so generally worn by them as the men.

1983. Do you consider that the people in this district at any time since you have known them, had been well clad according to your idea previously to 1854?—I have known them to be comfortably clothed. I have known them to be so clothed, that the decency of their person would be preserved.

1984. Were those new cuts that the Committee have heard so much about, let to people who heretofore occupied them, or to new tenants; who are the occupiers of them now?—Natives of the district.

1985. The same as occupied them before?—Some of them are not from the same townland, but from the same barony. There was an attempt once or twice made to introduce other parties into the district to cultivate it, but I believe they have completely failed. A person was brought into Meenacladdy, and he expended a sum of money there, but he found that he made nothing of it, and of course he left.

1986. Are the new cuts generally let to the relatives of persons who live on the neighbouring cuts, and who held cows' grass before?—No, not always, they may or may not. There are instances where they are not, nor even where they are brought from one parish to another.

1987. In the majority of cases, how is it?—In the majority of cases the landlord disposes of them to any party who will take them.

1988. In open market as you might say?—He lets them to any person who applies for them.

1989. Can you account for this fact, that in February 1856, there were 41 people in the workhouse in that union; in 1857 there were 28, and in 1858 there were 22; does not that prove a diminution in the amount of distress, for it is a diminution of one-half between 1858 and 1856?—However my ideas may agree with others, I believe that the number of paupers in the workhouse is no indication of the distress in the district, as the people are averse to go into the workhouse. For example, a woman, even on the admission of one of the guardians, has actually died of distress in Cloughaneely, and still she refused to go into the workhouse. I cannot account for it. I should be unwilling to state that the diet is very inferior, but there is a great reluctance on the part of the people to enter the workhouse. I have myself repeatedly told parties whom I saw going from door to door begging, to go to the workhouse, but they said that they would rather starve than go there.

1990. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] How do you account for it, that in the famine year the house was nearly full?—They had an impression upon their minds that out of every five during the famine who went into the workhouse, two of them did not live to come out.

1991. Is that a fact?—I do not know; a great number of them died in it.

1992. Lord *Naas.*] Did many die in the district during the famine?—Not very many.

1993. Was there any fever there?—There was some Scotch or English cholera brought into the district; I had been there myself during the time, and I took the fever myself in attending some of the sick, and my life was long despaired of.

1994. Has there been any fever or cholera lately in the district?—No.

1995. Is the district of Gweedore generally healthy?—It is generally healthy.

1996. Is it so now?—I believe it is; I am not in the district at present, but I heard the clergyman who came after me say that the sick calls were very numerous; we know the amount of sickness by the number of sick calls that we are obliged to attend, and the number of the dying, and the number of calls this year has been greater than in any previous season since 1846.

1997. Mr. *Maguire.*] With regard to that woman that you spoke of as having died of starvation, what was her name?—Bell M'Bride.

1998. On whose estate was she?—On Mr. Olphert's, I believe.

1999. Is that in Cloughaneely?—It is.

2000. Was the bailiff on that estate a man named Jack Gallagher?—Yes; that woman was very near Jack Gallagher's place.

2001. At what distance?—I should say not more than half-a-mile.

2002. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Was there a relieving officer in the district?—At Dunfanaghy there was.

2003. Was there any application made to him on behalf of this woman?—No.

2004. Mr. *Maguire.*] Why?—She refused to go into the workhouse; the question was asked of the guardian who stated the fact, and he said that such was the reluctance of the parties to go in there, that they would rather starve outside, and that they looked upon the workhouse, to use his own words, as a grave.

2005. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do you say that this woman died of starvation?—It was asserted so by one of the guardians of the Dunfanaghy Union, and it was asserted in the workhouse at Dunfanaghy, at a meeting of the Board.

2006. What was his name?—His name was Edward M'Ilroy; I took it from his assertion at a meeting of the Board.

2007. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] This woman who died from starvation and who would not go into the workhouse, I presume, was not on the list for relief?—She was on the list.

2008. She was on the list, but she died?—She died. It is impossible to meet all the cases; on the last time that we were giving relief in Cloughaneely, the man was so literally beset with applicants, that he was obliged to desist.

2009. Mr. *Dobbs.*] At what time did this woman die?—Not very long ago.

2010. Was it this spring?—It was.

2011. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] I understand that there was no application made to the relieving-officer, and that she was on the private relief-fund; yet she died from starvation, although there was 500*l.* of the relief-fund still in hand?—There was no application to the workhouse, because she would not go there; that she

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was upon the relief-fund more than any other, I deny; I did not know her circumstances more than those of any other person; we had no particular persons as to the administration of the relief in that respect. I should be very sorry to let any person die of starvation with the funds in our hands.

2012. What age was she?—She was pretty old; somewhere about 80 years. With regard to her, I only state the fact which I received from one of the guardians themselves.

2013. You stated, did you not, that Mr. M'Fadden was the administrator of the relief?—No; Mr. M'Gee was the treasurer.

2014. Had Mr. M'Fadden anything to do with the administration of the relief?—He had.

2015. How near to this woman did he live?—Something about a mile from her; but Mr. M'Fadden had no knowledge whatever of her case.

2016. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] The Committee were told yesterday by some of the witnesses, that Lord George Hill's purchase of this estate has done a positive harm to the peasantry; do you agree with that?—I do not. But I say that if the taking away of the mountains, and the rack-renting, are persisted in, the means of the people will be so greatly lessened that the people will not be able to live. As regards Lord George Hill's getting roads in the district, and establishing a post-office, and opening a store and a quay in the district, those things all facilitate their intercourse with merchants; and I should be sorry that the Committee should suppose that I do not think that Lord George Hill deserves all praise for his exertions in that department; but the taking away of the mountains lessens the people's means of support, and is "a positive harm" to the district.

2017. Do you believe that on Lord George Hill's estate in no case the rent is 5 *s.* 6 *d.* an acre, and that the average is from 2 *s.* to 3 *s.*?—I should not at all deny that, because I find, by Griffith's valuation, that the average value of an acre is not more than 6½ *d.*

2018. I understood you to say that it was 2 *s.* yesterday?—I said 6½ *d.*

2019. Lord *Naas.*] Do you know whether the poor-rate in this district is levied upon Griffith's valuation?—I do not know that.

2020. You are aware, are you not, that Griffith's valuation, has not yet come into force in that district?—I am not; but I know that the person who has drawn up that valuation was in the district in 1857.

2021. This book which I hold in my hand is the valuation, which has not yet come into force in the district for poor-law purposes?—Yes, but I believe it will next year; but at this moment I do not know that it has.

2022. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Has any land upon which any labour has been expended been taken by Lord George Hill from the tenant without paying to him the usual amount of tenant right?—No, it has not.

2023. Do you think that the value of the goodwill of the farms has improved?—No; it has certainly deteriorated.

2024. How many years' purchase should you say would be given for tenant-right good will?—The last time that I was at Gweedore they told me that they could not get a market for their tenant right at all, nor were they likely to get it, unless things grew more prosperous; I know instances myself where people were making attempts to emigrate to Australia, but they failed to make a market of their land.

2025. Is it stated that at the store, which has been set up by Lord George Hill, 200 *l.* worth of bread is sold every year, would that relate to the peasantry, or to those who are better to do?—The last year there was a large amount of constabulary in the district, and they consumed the bread.

2026. Let me ask you one question with regard to this affidavit, which was referred to yesterday; about the wages of 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a day; it is stated in a paper that I have here to refer to, the time when they were making kelp, and that the price of kelp was so high last year that they could make more than 1 *s.* 6 *d* a-day; would that apply to any other labour?—I inquired into the matter, and I found on inquiry that parties engaged in kelp-making would rather have 9 *d.* per day with their diet, on the average, than run the chance or the risk of making kelp; in some instances they will succeed in realising great wages, but in other cases there may be a complete failure; it depends principally upon the weather and the price of the kelp.

2027. Do you think that the houses that they live in have improved during the last 10 or 12 years?—Externally I should say that the houses are improved; previously

viously to my coming into the district the Rundale system had been done away with; the tenants built new houses on their separate strips.

2028. Mr. *Maguire.*] It has been stated that 600 *l.* worth of stockings has been sold by people on Lord George Hill's property; is that fact, admitting it to be true, an indication of the prosperity of the people?—It is not.

2029. Will you state why?—For this reason; first, it would not be more than a halfpenny per day for the entire district, allowing 800 families; and in the second place, some of those stockings, I understand, had been bought from other districts; and again, I have known, of my own knowledge, women to have purchased wool at 1 *s.* 4 *d.* per pound, and I know that they were able to make only one pair of stockings in a day. They were only able to make four pairs out of the pound, and they sold the four pairs for 1 *s.* 6 *d.* each pair, allowing them somewhere about a halfpenny a day; that I know of my own knowledge.

2030. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Is not that an indication that there are sheep in the district?—It is not, and I will say why. The stockings are not all made of the wool of the district. I know that a person named Boyle, from the Rosses, brings his wool now to the Derrybeg market, whereas formerly the people were in the habit of selling wool instead of purchasing it

2031. Mr. *Maguire.*] That is on Lord Conyngham's estate, where the people are comparatively prosperous, is it not?—They are comparatively prosperous.

2032. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Did you know the district much before the famine of 1846?—No; I only reached the district, I said, in 1846, and I know nothing of it previously, unless what I heard.

2033. Did they suffer much from famine in 1847?—They did, considerably, of course.

2034. Would you say that the district is worse off in 1858 than it was in 1848?—I had not been there in 1848; I left in 1847, but, I believe, there was more disease in Gweedore in 1847 than there was in 1857.

2035. When did you first know of the use of sea-weed to any considerable extent as a part of the food of the people; when did you first observe it?—I should remark that there are always poor people in the townlands who, when provisions are scarce, fall back upon it, but as to its general use it was only during the few last years that I observed it.

2036. You were parish priest, I think you said, in 1853?—I was.

2037. Will you just recall your recollection, if possible, to 1853, and to the state of the people in 1853; did you know them to use sea-weed as their food to any considerable extent in that year?—No; I make a distinction between poverty and destitution.

2038. I am speaking of the extent to which sea-weed was used?—It was not generally used until the summer of 1855 and last year.

2039. According to you, there was a considerable increase in the use of sea-weed in 1857?—Yes; a perceptible increase.

2040. And was there a considerable decrease in the quantity, value, and nature of the clothing?—Yes, and in the stock.

2041. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You have stated that you went there in 1846?—I did.

2042. Where had you been before; had you been in that neighbourhood?—I had been only ordained at that time about six months; I had been in Ardara.

2043. How far is that from this district?—I should say it is about 33 miles; I think Glenties is 28, and Ardara 5 miles more.

2044. Should you say that that district was poorer or richer than this district of which we are speaking?—It was immeasurably richer at the time I left it.

2045. This has been a very poor district since you came into it, has it not?—I believe it was always poor, but as in every disease there is a crisis, so in this parish things came to a crisis last year.

2046. Were you there in the famine of 1847?—I was.

2047. Was there much exertion made to relieve the poor by the owners of the properties there?—There was.

2048. Did they exert themselves by private contributions?—I do not know about that, but no praise would be too great for their exertions in general.

2049. You state that there were about 800 families in Gweedore and Cloughaneely?—Yes.

2050. How many persons would you say there were in those families on the average?—I should say, five or six.

2051. From the time you have known this district altogether, from 1846 to this

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year, would you say that the number of families had increased or diminished?—Increased.

2052. And the population altogether is larger?—It is; they marry very young in Gweedore and Cloughaneely, and then they have numerous families.

2053. If you say that there are 800 now, there would not be 800 when you first went there?—There could scarcely have been 800, I should say.

2054. With regard to this sea-weed that they consume, do you know whether any of the people ever consume it from choice?—I do not think they would.

2055. Have you ever tasted it yourself?—I tried to eat it, but I could not.

2056. Do you think that any one would eat it from choice?—I do not think they would; I could not.

2057. Did you ever eat sloke?—I have.

2058. Is it anything like that?—It is far more strongly tasted, and it has a saltish and brinish taste.

2059. Is there any sort of gelatinous property in it; is there any nourishment in it?—There must be nourishment in it; they use it as nourishment.

2060. But it is not palatable?—No, it is very repulsive. I cannot tell how they can eat it; I tried to eat it, but I could not.

2061. There is one thing that has not been referred to; how are they off for fuel?—They are very well off.

2062. What sort of fuel is it?—Cut turf; they are very well off for turf.

2063. Then, they have not suffered for want of fuel?—No; but they are complaining now that the place where they were in the habit of cutting turf has been parcelled out into cuts.

2064. You state that they have never suffered from the want of sufficient fuel?—On the contrary, were it not for the fuel they would perish in the winter; they lie down in the kitchen and they put turf on the fire; the fire keeps them warm and comfortable.

2065. What sort of harvest was there in that district in the year 1857?—It was a tolerably good harvest.

2066. Was there any exportation of potatoes from that district?—I believe not; it may have happened in this way, that the parties were obliged to sell their potatoes in order to meet the taxation; there are 1,800 families in Cloughaneely and Gweedore, and there may be always some of those who are not reduced to extreme want; there are only 800 families who are so badly off.

2067. I understood you to say that there were 800 families, was that in Gweedore alone?—In Gweedore alone.

2068. Do you mean to say that the other 1,000 were in Cloughaneely?—About that.

2069. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] You mean to say that there are 1,800 families, but of that number 800 are in distress?—Yes.

2070. Then, there are 1,000 families tolerably well off?—Tolerably; they are not very comfortable, but we would be sorry to appeal to the charity of the world for them.

2071. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do you know whether the sale of kelp has produced any amount of income to the tenants?—I believe it has produced a considerable amount of income.

2072. You stated, did you not, that none of the landlords charged the tenants for making kelp, except Mr. Nixon?—No.

2073. The tenants are in the habit of making kelp on the shore without any charge?—Yes, they are.

2074. Do they make considerable sums by it?—They do; last year was a very good year.

2075. Has there been any change in that respect with regard to the charge of making kelp?—No; there has been no change.

2076. You state that they had a good year last year?—Yes.

2077. What price did they get?—Some 2 *s.* and some 2 *s.* 6 *d.*; last year it was up to 5 *s.* and 6 *s.* a cwt. I understand that it is not more than 2 *s.* now.

2078. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Have you any idea how many tons they make in a year on the average?—I have not.

2079. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Had there not been some petitions before with regard to this matter?—There had.

2080. Was there not a memorial sent to the Poor-law Commissioners?—There was.

2081. Did

2081. Did they make any inquiries about it?—In the year 1855 there was a memorial.

2082. Was there a complaint then?—There was.

2083. What became of that memorial; was there anything done in consequence of it?—The Commissioner, as I said yesterday, was sent to the district by the Lord Lieutenant, and on finding that there was no application for admission to the workhouse, he concluded that there was not any distress in the district; but we felt that there was such an amount of distress, that we purchased 1,500*l.* worth, and distributed it amongst them; that was in 1855.

2084. There was a petition presented to the House of Commons, was there not?—Yes, there was, I believe, in 1856.

2085. Was there one in 1857?—Perhaps it might have been in 1857.

2086. Did you sign that petition?—I did.

2087. Were there many signatures affixed to it?—Upwards of 2,000; but it was rejected by the House because they did not look upon the signatures as genuine. I am willing enough to explain how that was; we were not acquainted with the forms of the House, and I merely, as one of the clergymen, read the petition from the altar after service one Sunday, and I asked them if they would be willing to have their signatures affixed to that petition, and, inasmuch as they could not write, would they authorise me to do so; I read it in English, and translated it in Irish, and they told me, unanimously, to affix their names to it; I thought that that would be sufficient, but I found it was not according to Parliamentary form. I may remark, that in a clause of that petition we prayed for means to enable the people to emigrate to some of the colonies; and I remember, that on my reading that clause, which I distinctly repeated, inasmuch as I did not wish it to rest on any hasty assertion; and they said, unanimously, that they were willing to emigrate to any of the colonies sooner than live in the way they were; and I, at the time, promised to go with them.

2088. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did they, on different occasions after that, express the same willingness?—They did; they were most anxious, as it is within the knowledge of the gentlemen of the district, to avail themselves of free emigration to Australia; so much so that they were vieing with each other, and they looked upon it as a matter of favour from the gentlemen to have the means of emigration put within their reach.

2089. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You stated, did you not, that you objected to the system of cuts, and that you thought it a bad system?—I do. I think that it impoverishes the country.

2090. Do you mean that it does so by being the means of increasing the population?—Yes.

2091. Whether that system is sound or not, could a landlord who pursues that system be fairly called an exterminator of the race?—He may, or may not be; I would be sorry directly to call him an exterminator of the race.

2092. Therefore you do not agree with the witness who called Lord George Hill an exterminator of the race?—I do not believe that it is Lord George Hill's intention to exterminate the race. I do not agree with the witness who said so, but I think that it will result in that. I think that the people will not be able to live; and I for one myself most solemnly would say, that I would rather they were pushed out of the place than live in those miserable cottages.

2093. Are you aware that a witness stated that several of those cuts, I think to the number of 12 or 14, were taken by people from the Rosses?—He stated so.

2094. Will you account for the circumstance of people coming from a comparatively prosperous district like the Rosses, and taking new cuts, circumstanced as those that you have described?—I will as far as I can; because there are in every parish and every district, persons who have no means of supporting themselves at home, though the rest of their neighbours may be in comfortable circumstances; the population in all these districts are always emigrating.

2095. Are there many persons in the Rosses who would better their condition by coming to Gweedore?—I do not know as to bettering their condition; there are poor persons in the Rosses; but the mass of the people are comparatively comfortable.

2096. With regard to those rents that have been raised, have the rents in that district within the last two years been punctually and cheerfully paid?—They have punctually, but not cheerfully.

2097. Without distraint, without coercion, and without ejectment?—I would not

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not say so; the bailiffs always charge 2 *s.* 6 *d.* for driving the property, or the cattle of the neighbours when distraining for rent.

2098. Have they driven any of them?—In some instances they have.

2099. How many?—I will give a person as an example; she is Margaret Sweeny, of Magheralosk; she is extremely poor, and I can say that 2 *s.* 6 *d.* worth of furniture, or of clothes, is not in her house; nevertheless, she has been charged 2 *s.* 6 *d.* by the bailiff, Edward Diver, for distraining. I know her to make up her rent by begging from door to door; I am giving this as an example.

2100. How many cases of distraint have there been in that district of 1,800 families?—Not many.

2101. About how many?—I do not know.

2102. Have there been 10?—I think not.

2103. Have there been five?—I do not know how many.

2104. You cannot say whether there have been five?—No.

2105. Are you aware whether there has been one instance where they distrained and proceeded to sell either the cattle or the furniture?—No.

2106. Are you aware of one single case where there has been ejectment for non-payment of rent?—I am not; but I was just going to read an extract to show that that is no indication of poverty, or otherwise. I have before me Mr. Nicholls' report, and in speaking of Donegal he says: "During the severe privations of the last summer" (he is speaking of 1837) "when numbers were actually in want of sustenance, there was no dishonesty, no plundering; the people starved, but they would not steal; and although their little stock of cattle and movables has been notoriously lessening these last four years, and especially in the last year, which seems to have swallowed up nearly all their visible means, they have yet paid their rents."

2107. Lord *Naas.*] In what year was that?—The report is dated in November 1837.

2108. Mr. *Dobbs.*] That was before the introduction of the Irish Poor Law?—Yes; he goes on to say: "The occupier's share of the produce has been insufficient for his own support, yet the landlord's share has generally been paid in full, and I was assured by the agent of one of the largest proprietors that he had no arrears worth noticing." Nevertheless, in that year Mr. Nicholls admits that there was distress in county Donegal.

2109. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] In this district, where, in your appeal, you stated that the rent has been quadrupled, the rent has been paid without trouble?—Yes; but I am taking Mr. Nicholls' observations to show that that is not a sufficient answer, and that it does not prove the absence of distress, because he says here that the food was insufficient for themselves; nevertheless, the landlord's share was paid in full, and even one of the agents remarked to him that there were no arrears of rent upon the property worth noticing.

2110. From your own knowledge of that part of Ireland, is it a usual thing that rents three or four times the value of the land are paid without trouble by a starving population?—I do believe it.

2111. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] You mentioned the rate of wages being excessively low: who are the employers of people at those wages?—There is scarcely any employment at all in the district that one would call uniform or regular employment.

2112. Then I suppose that the men, or at least a portion of them, are employed in those cuts or cow grasses?—During the winter they are not employed at all.

2113. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Do they beg or what, or how are they supported?—Generally speaking, in the winter there is a large amount of sea-weed thrown upon the shore, and with the exception of drying it, and placing it upon the spots of land, they have scarcely any other employment.

2114. How do they exist at all?—Very badly and very idly.

2115. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] You state generally that there is a great dearth of employment?—There is.

2116. When you call it a cow's grass, you cannot tell the exact size of it, or what it is that is merely meant by a cow's grass?—I cannot.

2117. Does it vary according to the nature of the soil?—It does.

2118. That is to say, a cow's grass would be larger in a poor portion of the parish, to use an English term, and it would be less in a more rich part?—I think it would be less in the latter case.

2119. How

2119. How do they cultivate it?—I should say that their mode of cultivating those little spots is not very good.

2120. What crops do they grow upon them?—Potatoes and oats; they would not grow wheat, and the corn itself is of a very inferior description.

2121. Are those oats exported to any extent, or are they consumed entirely within the district?—The oats are generally sold to meet the little demands coming in upon them; but the oats are very inconsiderable; I know one townland that has offered all the oats growing upon it to the landlord for rent, if he would take it.

2122. You cannot tell me in an average year what would be the quantity of oats that a man would grow on a cow's grass?—No, I could not.

2123. Nor the quantity of potatoes?—No, I could not.

2124. With regard to the stock which these men take in to graze upon the hills, what style of stock is it?—Cows and sheep.

2125. Are they cows in milk?—No, they are not milk cows.

2126. They are what are called barren stock?—Yes.

2127. They receive for that a rent, and they collect that rent?—They charge so much per head or sum.

2128. They get no other profit from that?—No.

2129. Do the people go away much out of the district for the purpose of obtaining wages?—Yes, they do generally; in the summer and spring all the able-bodied men go to Scotland, and in the harvest they go to England.

2130. Do they bring much money back with them?—£.2 or 3*l.*, or 4*l.*, according to the harvest, and according to the demand.

2131. Do they bring that money back with them?—They do.

2132. How many months should you put down as winter months, in which they are unable to get anything like profitable employment?—I should say about five months.

2133. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Is there any such thing as regular employment, at a given rate of wages for money, in that district at all?—There is no such thing, if you except (and I do not know how far that is carried on) the job-work that has been talked of; but in the winter it is impossible to work at that, because the ground is covered with snow.

2134. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Was the land that Lord George Hill took into his own holding, land that the tenants believed to be incapable of cultivation?—I believe they would not attempt to cultivate parts of it; there were portions of it that were looked upon as irreclaimable and portions reclaimable.

2135. Lord *Naas.*] With regard to Mr. Nicholls' report, which is dated the 3d of November 1837, do you imagine from your own knowledge of this particular district of Gweedore, that that district generally is in pretty nearly the same state as Mr. Nicholls describes it in this report?—I think it is not far off from it.

2136. You think that the state of circumstances generally described in this report prevails in that district still?—Not altogether.

2137. In what does it differ?—I do not know what his assertion is to which you allude.

2138. In the same page from which you have made a quotation (page 81 of the report) he says, "There was no employment for the young people, nor relief for the aged, nor means nor opportunity for removing their surplus numbers to some more eligible spot. They could only therefore live on hoping, as they said, that times might mend, and that their landlords would sooner or later do something for them." Then again it says, "The process of reclamation in such circumstances is above the limited means of the people: each of whom just manages to cultivate a patch of land to raise potatoes, on which his family may subsist; a patch of oats to supply them mostly, I fear, with whisky; and then, as to rent (for they all pay rent), they rely for raising that upon a few cattle or sheep running wild on the mountains." Do you think that that is a state of things that exists in that district?—I should say nearly the same; as to their depending mainly for support upon the little stock upon the mountains, they only look upon their little spots of arable land as the means of immediately relieving their wants as to food.

2139. With regard to illicit distillation, I believe that no longer exists to any extent?—It is put down to a considerable extent.

2140. Has it disappeared altogether?—It has not, but I think it will disappear ultimately; I think it is gradually decreasing.

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2141. Mr. *Maguire.*] Why do you think so?—There is a large force of constabulary at present located in the district.

2142. Lord *Naas.*] With regard to emigration, you stated that you thought that if a system of emigration were introduced into the district, it would be of great use?—I think it would.

2143. Do you think that the people, provided emigration were offered them upon reasonable terms, would be willing to go?—I think they would.

2144. Do you think there is a general feeling of desire among the people to emigrate?—Every person has a tendency to stop at home; it is natural to man; but, sooner than remain in the misery they are in, they would rather emigrate. I would not like to emigrate myself, but, sooner than leave them thus as they are, I would go along with them.

2145. That is their feeling?—Yes. When the Committee put the question to me, I intended to make some application to have them removed from the district, and if I thought that the means would be brought within our reach of removing them, I never would have applied for an investigation before this Committee; for it must be most painful for them, as it is to me to be called here to be investigating this matter.

2146. You state that you conceive that there was no wide-spread conspiracy among the people of the district for the destruction of the sheep belonging to the Scotch and English settlers?—I do.

2147. How do you account for this unfortunate circumstance that has taken place, that so large a number of those sheep have been destroyed?—I do not think they have been destroyed; I admit that some of them have been taken, but I think that none of them have been wantonly and maliciously destroyed.

2148. Do you give the Committee to understand that the grand jury and the cess barristers were deceived in the statements made to them, when they presented that sum for the 15,000 sheep that were said to be maliciously destroyed?—I think they were deceived; but I would be sorry to say that the grand jury, in presenting this, did not feel themselves warranted by the evidence in arriving at that opinion; but we were most anxious at that time that it should be tried before a petty jury, and traversed in court, and to have a more minute investigation into it.

2149. Are you not aware that the law allows any ratepayers to traverse any presentment that they object to?—I thought it was optional with the judge to allow it.

2150. Was it not traversed?—No; but we requested the judge while in Lifford to allow it to be tried by a petty jury. I am not a lawyer, and I do not know the law.

2151. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] But as a matter of fact, was not the presentment traversed?—I mean we wanted to have it tried by a petty jury.

2152. As a matter of fact, was it traversed?—Not before a petty jury; and hence the feeling in our mind was, that inasmuch as the landlords of the district were more or less favourable to the taking away of the mountains, and inasmuch as some profit would arise to themselves from letting them to strangers, and inasmuch as the grand jury is entirely composed of those parties, and those who had no interest in the district, and who would therefore stick to their order, we thought that it was not a fair tribunal to appear before; I am giving my impression. I would be sorry that I should hurt the feelings of anyone present.

2153. Was the presentment traversed in open court, and defended before the judge by your counsel employed by the public who were charged in the district?—It was discussed; but I am telling the impression on our minds. We would be sorry to impute anything like intentional injustice to the grand jury, but there was a feeling in the minds of the peasantry that it was not an unprejudiced tribunal, if I might use the word, to appear before.

2154. Lord *Naas.*] Are you aware that the law allows any case of a presentment of this kind for malicious injury to be tried before a judge, with a petty jury, if it shall be demanded?—It was quite optional with the judge.

2155. Was that application made to the judge?—It was.

2156. Was it refused?—It was.

2157. *Chairman.*] The traverse or objection to the presentment, as I understand, was when it was brought before the grand jury?—Exactly.

2158. Then the next stage, after going to the grand jury, would be going to the judge to be fiated; when that presentment was presented to the judge for fiat,

fiat, was any objection made before the judge to fiating the presentment?—We prayed to have it tried by the judge himself and by a petty jury, and that application had been refused; we looked at the conclusion arrived at by the grand jury as not altogether satisfactory to us, inasmuch as we did not and could not look upon them as an unprejudiced body.

2159. First of all, the presentment goes to the road sessions for malicious injury; was there any traverse made, or any objection taken to the passing of the presentment before the associated magistrates and the cess-payers, before it went to the grand jury?—There was; but then it was the same body who were present upon the grand jury.

2160. The people objected to the passing of that presentment at the road sessions; they objected to it to the grand jury; and they objected to it in the third stage, before the judge; is that so?—Yes.

2161. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Are you aware that the decision of the sessions was unanimous, including the cess-payers?—I am not aware of it; but I believe it was unanimous.

2162. *Chairman.*] How many associated rate-payers from the district of Cloughaneely and Gweedore were at the sessions?—None at all.

2163. Is there no man of sufficient consequence in this district to be an associated rate-payer?—Not one.

2164. I want to ask you another question with regard to the Poor Law guardians; are the guardians for that district the farmers of the district?—They are.

2165. Who vote for those guardians; are any of the people of the district sufficiently rated to vote for those guardians?—Very few; they never trouble themselves about it; a person is nominated by some gentleman of the district, and there is scarcely any opposition offered.

2166. In fact, there are very few rated high enough to vote for a Poor Law guardian?—Very few, and even those who are are unwilling to oppose any person nominated by the gentlemen. I remember even in our county elections generally, if they exercise the franchise as they think proper, they more or less incur the displeasure of the landlord.

2167. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Were you in court when the judge refused to allow this traverse before a petty jury?—Yes.

2168. Did you hear him assign any reason?—I did; the reason was, that he thought the gentlemen of the grand jury had had sufficient opportunity of knowing the circumstances.

2169. Did he say there had been quite sufficiently full discussion before two benches, the justices and the cess-payers?—He may have.

2170. Was that the reason?—Yes; still it was not satisfactory to us.

2171. Was the reason which he gave, that he considered in his opinion, that it had been sufficiently discussed before two benches, the magistrates and the cess-payers?—Yes; but it did not remove the impression from our minds. I am only giving the reflex of the impression upon my own mind, and the mind of the public at the time.

2172. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did you hear another judge say that there was more comparative opulence in this district than before?—The same judge said so.

2173. Do the tenants trouble themselves much about the election of guardians?—They do not.

2174. They adopt any man who is nominated?—Yes.

2175. As a general rule they do?—They do.

2176. *Chairman.*] I will just ask you one question; in your opinion, as a clergyman living in the district, and intimately acquainted with the habits of the people and their state, do you think that under the present system of exercising the rights of the landlord the people would be able to continue in the country, or would their state be such as that they would either gradually decline off, or that they would be obliged to seek a dwelling elsewhere?—I believe it; and so much am I impressed with that, that as I said before, we intend to make every effort to have the people removed from the district, and go to some one of our colonies. I believe, moreover, that if the people had the means of employing themselves at wages, if anything like a labour market was brought into the district, they would be most willing to work. And even before I appeared here, I had been considering for a long time, how we could establish some branch of industry, say sewing, for the females. There is a large amount

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of idle hands, and if some gentlemen in England or in Scotland would send a large amount of shirts to be sewn, and if the shirts were cut by machinery, I believe that the females would most willingly employ themselves in making them up; but as they are, I have no hesitation in saying that they must ultimately waste away.

2177. Sir *William Somerville.*] Is it your opinion that there was no malicious destruction of sheep whatever in this district?—Yes, it is my opinion.

2178. Then all those sheep that were lost and found in bog holes, &c., were all lost from having accidentally strayed?—No, I do not say that; I admit that a number of those sheep had been taken away, and used as human food.

2179. There were a number of sheep found in holes?—There were; but I hold, moreover, that the number so taken is very small, in comparison to the whole number represented at the assizes, and for which compensation was given for malicious destruction.

2180. I am not taking any sheep which were taken for food; but it is stated, that a number of sheep were found in holes and other places; is it your opinion that they were not put in those places maliciously?—I think they might have been put into those positions by interested persons, and the reason I believe it is this: one of the parties connected with the herding of the sheep is Edward Diver, and I understood that some 20 years ago, he had a dispute with his own brother-in-law, and that he destroyed a sheep, and introduced that sheep into that man's house, and afterwards gave information to the authorities that he had missed a sheep, and he accused his brother-in-law of having killed it; and they were about bringing this man under a legal prosecution, had it not been that a partner who helped him would not bear witness to this act.

2181. You state it as your deliberate opinion, that there was no extensive malicious destruction of sheep in that neighbourhood by the peasantry inhabiting the district?—I do.

2182. Lord *Naas.*] Do you wish to convey this to the Committee, that those Scotch sheep that were lost, were either stolen by people or were lost by straying, but that they were not killed maliciously for the mere purpose of the destruction of the sheep?—That is my belief. Out of the whole 865 sheep which were alleged to have been maliciously destroyed, not more than two or three were found under circumstances that would warrant the assumption that they were maliciously destroyed; the heads and feet of some others were found buried in bog-holes; but then these could have been placed in the positions that they were found in by the persons who used their carcases for human food, taking off the heads and feet and concealing them.

2183. How many were found?—About 18 or 20.

2184. The rest all disappeared?—The rest all disappeared; and I think it would be a moral impossibility that 865 sheep would have been maliciously destroyed in the district and concealed. The constabulary were upon the alert to find them out, and they did not succeed in detecting them.

2185. Sir *William Somerville.*] You stated that five were found alive?—Yes; and the carcases of two or three were found buried in bogs, and the heads of 18 or 19 were found concealed.

2186. You stated that in one instance five were found alive; were there any more?—Yes. I remember after the assizes were over, and compensation was granted, that parties came to me, and told me that they had found three of those sheep straying upon other mountains, and asked me what to do with them, and I, on that occasion, wrote to Mr. M'Crossan, the solicitor that I employed, and he told me not to mind them, because if they were found in our possession, legal proceedings might be taken against us.

2187. There were about 18 carcases found, were not there?—No; two or three carcases, and the heads and feet of 18.

2188. Do you ever remember an occurrence like that in any previous year?—I heard once of a place in another mountainous district, where the heads and bones of sheep were found, where the people were suffering from hunger, a place called Meenacorvick. The person accused of taking them was one Sharkey, and there were about a score or two score.

2189. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Do you believe that any sheep have been destroyed since the taxation?—I do not believe there have been; I think the peasants are using every exertion to prevent it; they may have been carried away by other parties, and I think other parties have an interest perhaps in having this practice continued.

2190. Were any found in a mountain lake?—I was not at the presentment, but Mr. Murray was, and he could tell.

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Mr. *John O'Dougherty*, called in; and Examined.

2191. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] WHERE do you live?—At Letterkenny.

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2192. How far is that from this district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely?—About 30 miles from Gweedore.

2193. What employment or occupation have you?—I am general manager for Mr. Joseph Gallagher, general merchant in Letterkenny.

2194. Have you occasion to visit those districts in the course of your business?—Yes.

2195. How often do you visit those districts?—I visit them generally every two months, sometimes more frequently.

2196. When did you first begin to visit them?—I think it was the year 1853 when I first had business to those localities.

2197. Have you visited the district every year since?—I have.

2198. When were you last there?—I was there in May last of the present year.

2199. What particular business did you pursue?—Mr. Gallagher is a wholesale woollen draper, and a wine and spirit merchant. I have been in the habit of going round and collecting accounts, and getting orders from persons for those goods.

2200. Have you found that Mr. Gallagher's business with that district has increased or diminished since 1853?—For the last two years it has considerably decreased.

2201. To what do you ascribe the decrease?—When I found the decrease of business, as I was more or less held responsible for the contracting of any debts that were incurred in that part of the country, I made particular inquiry into the circumstances of the people, and into the causes of the decrease; and I was told by persons with whom Mr. Gallagher dealt, that it was owing to the people having lost the mountains, and having to pay latterly the sheep cess and the police tax; and also to the rents being raised.

2202. Did you yourself, at any time in 1857, make a personal investigation as to the condition of the people there?—I did; for the last two or three years I have sometimes been in the habit of calling at the Rev. Mr. Doherty's house, and I have heard him complain of the people's misery; and on that account, I have myself visited some of the houses to see their wretched condition; and I recollect in November 1857, having visited several houses then.

2203. About how many did you visit then?—About three or four.

2204. What part of the district was that; do you know the name of the townland?—The name of the townland is Middletown, I believe.

2205. In what condition did you find the three or four families that you visited in Middletown?—In a very wretched condition; I never before saw any persons who appeared so poor, or living in such miserable hovels.

2206. What was the state of the dress of the people?—Their dress was wretched.

2207. In what condition did you find the bedding and clothing?—Wretched; there was no bedding at all except some old covering of rags, which has been described by the other witnesses. I recollect at that time, in November 1857, seeing a family eating sea-weed; I had heard of their eating it, and I went by accident just to visit the place, and I found them eating sea-weed at the time.

2208. Did you see more than one family eating sea-weed?—That was the only family that I saw.

2209. Could you ascertain the stock of food?—I could not.

2210. Did you go into any other houses afterwards?—I have been in them frequently for the last three or four years; I visited houses in April last.

2211. Where was that?—I visited houses in Magheralosk in April last, and I visited also places called Brinlack and Carrick.

2212. How many houses did you visit altogether?—I think in Brinlack and Carrick I visited 20 or 30.

2213. In what condition did you find the inmates of those houses as to food, clothing, and bedding?—In a very wretched condition, so far as I could

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ascertain from the appearance of the houses; from their appearance inside they were most wretched.

2214. Will you just describe generally to the Committee in what condition you found them as to food, clothing, and bedding?—I took a note of some one or two families; I did not expect that I would be summoned before this Committee, and I therefore was not so anxious to make notes as I otherwise should have been; but I went through them, and I took notes of one or two; I visited Bryan Coyle's house, and as soon as I entered the house I saw eight of a family sitting on the floor with a basket of miserable potatoes before them.

2215. Mr. *Dobbs.*] In what townland was that?—Brinlack.

2216. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Whose land is that in?—I am not certain who is the proprietor of Brinlack; I would say that the potatoes were of a miserable quality; a small gluey potato, and what the people were eating with it was sea-weed; I did consider, from the quantity of potatoes that I saw, and from the number of persons that were round the potatoes, that it was not sufficient food for them in quantity, and really the quality was disgusting even to look at.

2217. Was the sea-weed boiled?—The sea-weed was boiled; they had a pot beside them, and they were taking it out of the pot and putting it into a bowl, and from that I supposed they were using the sea-weed for the purpose of filling their stomachs. I do not know the name of the sea-weed. I inquired whether this man had some cows, and I believe he had one or two cows, but I think I know the reason that they have cows and may be starving; persons living in these districts are in the habit of getting trust meal from shopkeepers dealing in meal, who would not let them have any if they found that they had got no cattle; they would give them none on trust; and I think on that account the people would cling with great tenacity to their cows before they would part with them.

2218. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Had Bryan Coyle any cows?—I think he told me he had two.

2219. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Will you go on with your description; how were those people clad?—Most miserably. There were six naked children round about the basket; and certainly I observed one or two that were not fit to be looked at in decency.

2220. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] What were their ages?—Between nine and ten, I think.

2221. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Do you mean that all the six were naked?—They were not all naked, but they were certainly not sufficiently clad.

2222. *Chairman.*] Were any of them naked?—Not entirely naked.

2223. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Was the eldest about ten?—The eldest was older; the eldest appeared to be about 15 or 16. I am not quite certain whether they were all Bryan Coyle's children; but the man told me that he had six in family.

2224. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] What age was the youngest?—It was a child in the mother's arms; the ages varied from that to 16.

2225. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Had they a good fire?—Yes; they are living in the midst of where the fuel is got, it is their only comfort.

2226. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] In what state was the bedding?—The bedding was wretched.

2227. You have notes of another case, have you not?—I have.

2228. Will you give the Committee the particulars?—I visited one Patrick M'Fadden, of Glasshagh; it was a low hovel, and I had to stoop at going in at the door. A rock formed the gable of the house, and the rest of it was built of stones and mud. I do not think the house was more than 16 feet by 8 or 9, and when I went in there were three sitting round a basket of potatoes not much larger than marbles, and they were eating sea-weed also; I do not think it was fit for human food, for it was disgusting. There was no bed in the house. I asked them where they lay, and I saw some straw rolled opposite the opening in this little hovel, and they told me that they scattered it on the floor, and slept there at night. I asked them the reason why they did not lie beside the fire; but I looked, and I saw that there was scarcely space between the walls and the fire for a bed.

2229. Does that description generally apply to other houses that you visited?—Yes, but not so very wretched.

2230. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Had that man any land?—I believe he had; he paid the cess and the sheep tax, and he would not have done that if he had not any land.

2231. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Had he any cattle?—He had not.

2232. In how many instances did you find the people eating sea-weed and bad potatoes?—Those were the only persons that I found at their meals; that was about five o'clock in the evening. I recollect looking at the time, and I asked them what meal it was, and they said that it was their second and last meal for the day; and if that was the food they were living on I think it was a miracle that they should exist upon it.

2233. Have you frequently been to the Roman-catholic chapels on Sunday?—I have.

2234. Have you observed the state of the congregations?—I have been particularly struck with it. I recollect in the winter of 1857 having met the people coming to chapel. I met them on stormy days; and I recollect one day in particular, in the winter of 1857, some time of November, when I was going to the priest's house to put up my pony, I met the people coming down the hills; the rain was pelting upon them, and I certainly could discover, from the clothes clinging against their persons, that many of the females had but one garment upon them, and very few had shawls or anything else, and some of them shrank behind the others to hide their half-clad persons. At that time I was so much struck with their nakedness that I spoke to persons in Letterkenny, to have subscriptions raised for the purpose of relieving the people.

2235. Was that before the publication of this appeal?—It certainly was. The persons that I spoke to were two merchants in Letterkenny, Mr. John Gallagher, a baker there, and Mr. Gallagher, spirit dealer.

2236. Have you any reason to know or believe that there was a greater sale of stock or cattle in that district during the winter of 1857 than usual?—All that I could ascertain was from my constant intercourse with the people and inquiring about their circumstances. I frequently go to a fair in a town called Dungloe; that is about 12 miles from the Gweedore Hotel; and I have been on fair mornings travelling along the way to it, and I have got into conversation with the people, and I have asked some of them about what they were driving the cattle to the fair for, and last September and October fairs I was told that it was on account of their having to pay the cess that they were obliged to sell their cattle.

2237. Do you know whether the price of cattle in that district fell in consequence of the great increase in the sale of stock?—There are a great number of cattle dealers who get their English bills discounted by Mr. Gallagher, and the money is generally paid by me. I have great intimacy with them, and I have heard them say repeatedly that in October and January they could get cattle in the fairs at Dungloe cheaper on account of the people of Gweedore having to sell them.

2238. Have you recently found great difficulty in collecting the debts due to Mr. Gallagher in the district?—I have.

2239. Have you had many decrees against them?—I have. Mr. Gallagher was handed some decrees as security for a debt that was due to him by one Tom Robinson, of Cross Roads, for the amount of 47 *l.*: the decrees were for very small sums each, and I think they were obtained in April 1856.

2240. Has he ever been able to get them repaid?—He has not. I offered Daniel Gallagher, the person who attended before the Poor Law Commissioner, Mr. Hamilton, 7½ per cent. to execute those decrees, but he would not; he alleged that the greater part of the people were too poor; we then gave the decree to another man of the name of Sweeny, who returned them to us, and he got, I think, only 2 *l.* upon them.

2241. Did you observe the dress of the females in November and December last?—I did.

2242. Have you seen any instances in which it was insufficient for the purpose of covering their person?—Indeed I have; I frequently, in passing along the way, observed people standing in the doors, and as I have been passing I have seen them repeatedly go back, and I have myself turned my eyes away from looking at them, they were so naked, and in consequence I solicited a lady in

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in Letterkenny for clothing for them; I asked this of Mrs. Gallagher, with whom I live.

2243. *Chairman.*] Do you state that there was much depreciation in the clothing of the people, and that they were worse clothed these last two years than when you first knew the district?—I think they were; and I am in the habit of attending many of the chapels in Donegal, at Dungloe and Kinkaslagh, and I have seen the congregations there, and they present a much more comfortable appearance. In those districts, within the last two years, there have been two very large churches erected, I may say exclusively by the people's means alone, but in the parish of Gweedore there is a chapel that they are endeavouring to erect, but they have not got the stone work up to the roof yet, although commenced nearly as soon as the two before named.

2244. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Did you ever, at any time before this, observe any of the women insufficiently dressed?—When first I visited Gweedore I considered them very poor.

2245. Did you observe the women insufficiently dressed in 1853?—I did, but not in the state of nudity that I observed them in latterly.

2246. Have you seen them naked latterly?—Not altogether naked, but not sufficiently clothed to conceal their persons.

2247. Did you observe anything of that in 1853?—The state of things was not so bad.

2248. You collect money for Mr. Gallagher, do you not?—I do.

2249. You had a good many decrees in 1856, had you not?—I think that was the time.

2250. They were debts that they owed before 1856?—They were.

2251. Have they been collected since?—They have not. We obtained possession of the decrees in a strange manner: Mr. Robinson, of the Cross-roads, owed Mr. Gallagher a debt of 50*l.*, and he gave those decrees to him (he was the plaintiff in the cause), which he had obtained against people who owed him money; he handed the decrees to Mr. Gallagher; Mr. Gallagher went to the expense of employing a solicitor to obtain those decrees, and we have tried to get them executed, but we could not.

2252. They were not originally the debts of Mr. Gallagher?—They were not; they were handed over to him as security for a debt.

2253. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Is it your opinion, founded on the result of your own observation, that the condition of the people was worse in 1857 than it was in 1853?—Undoubtedly it was.

2254. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do you judge that from their consuming less spirits?—Even in that there is a deterioration in Mr. Gallagher's trade; they have not consumed so much.

2255. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Could you give the Committee an account of the quantity of spirits sold in each year by Mr. Gallagher in that district for the last five years?—I could not.

2256. Could you not institute any comparison?—I could institute a comparison with respect to the clothing.

2257. What other articles does he send into the district; does he send whisky?—Yes.

2258. And tobacco?—No; generally drapery goods and spirits.

2259. Have you any statement by which you could compare the quantity of spirits now with what was sold formerly?—I could not be accurate with respect to that; but I know positively that there is a decrease of consumption of spirits in that part of the country.

2260. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] What description of clothing do you send there?—Cotton goods, gray calicoes, and corduroys.

2261. Has there been any decrease in the consumption of those articles?—A very serious decrease; we have been in the habit of selling our goods to carriers, and I believe those carriers exchange them for eggs that they buy in the neighbourhoods; but since December 1857 we have sold little or nothing to the carriers.

2262. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do not the carriers go to the other districts?—Those persons I have spoken of do not deal elsewhere.

2263. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Has your trade with the neighbouring district increased or diminished in the same period?—It has increased in the town of Dungloe to a very great extent, compared with what it was in other years.

2264. Mr. *Maguire.*] Has it increased in the Rosses?—It has increased in the

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the Rosses; we had been in the habit of sending a person every four months to the Rosses, and now we have to send almost every month, on account of the increase of trade.

2265. In what proportion has this trade with the Rosses increased; has it been doubled?—It has been more than doubled.

2266. Are there any shops that sell the same goods that you do in that district?—There are shops kept by other persons; Daniel Keone has a shop.

2267. Lord *Naas.*] You do not intend the Committee to understand that Mr. Gallagher is the only person who supplies this district with clothing?—No.

2268. Do you know, of your own knowledge, that those persons never buy any clothing of anybody else?—I do; they buy all of Mr. Gallagher, as the shops that Mr. Gallagher supplies owe him accounts. I have been most particular every time in visiting the district, seeing about this; and I believe that they have not cause to go elsewhere.

2269. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Is there not a store in that district?—There is.

2270. Do any of the people supply themselves from it?—I believe they do.

2271. Largely?—I do not know what quantity, but I find that our trade was more in 1856 than 1857; the decrease not caused by that store.

2272. Can you give the Committee any idea what amount of clothing you have sold in that district in any one year?—I think I could. I see by my book James Coll, of Cotteen, from August 1856 to January 1857, purchased about 50*l.* of goods to sell again.

2273. You do not sell by retail in the Gweedore district, but you supply the shopkeepers in the district?—That is so.

2274. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] How much did you sell him in the next six months?—Twenty-seven pounds.

2275. When did the relief begin?—In March, I think, it began.

2276. Mr. *Dobbs.*] That amount was sold to one man, you say?—It was sold to one man.

2277. Could you give the Committee any idea of how much you sold at any place?—I could not. I have another instance here of a man named Bryan Boyle, of Derrybeg, who purchased, from August 1856 to January 1857, about 47 *l.* 10 *s.*, and from August 1857 to January 1858, 24 *l.*

2278. How many people are there in this district that you sell to altogether?—Five or six.

2279. Not more?—Not more of wholesale dealers. There may be a great many persons whom I do not know; insignificant customers who go to Letterkenny and peddle about goods, but I do not know them. I know one woman bought 40 *l.* worth in 1846, and in 1857 she bought only 9 *l.* worth.

2280. *Chairman.*] In your intercourse with the people lately, to what cause do they attribute their being in a worse state than they had been formerly?—Since September 1857, I have heard it particularly said that it was the police tax and the sheep cess; and I have heard them also complain of the increase of the rents, and the deprivation of the mountains before that time.

The Rev. *Daniel M'Gee,* called in; and Examined.

Rev. D. M'Gee.

2281. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] YOU are the Parish Priest of Tullaghobegley, West, are you not?—I am.

2282. Is that in the Gweedore district?—It is.

2283. How long have you been parish priest of that parish?—About nine months.

2284. You succeeded the Rev. Mr. Doherty, did you not?—Yes; I came there on the 13th of September; I was inducted by the orders of the bishop.

2285. In what district had you been residing previously?—I was Catholic curate of the united parishes of Killibegs and Killaghtee.

2286. How far are those from this district?—Something about 35 or 40 miles.

2287. Had you known much of the Gweedore district before you were appointed as parish priest there?—No, very little.

2288. Will you describe to the Committee generally the condition in which you found the people in that parish when you arrived there?—The first Sunday I came there I was very much struck with the dress of the female portion of the congregation in particular; and as to the men, more than half of them had

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no coats on; the women were very scantily dressed; they had scarcely any shawls, and less cloaks; and I do not think there were three bonnets in the whole chapel. It was very different from the appearance of the congregation of the chapel that I left; they were all comparatively well clothed.

2289. Killybeg is on the sea-shore, is it not?—It is.

2290. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] In what state were the people of Gweedore with respect to food in October 1857?—In October 1857 I was going through the parish to the different townlands, and I found that they were living very miserably; in some houses I saw the sea-weed boiled, and used along with the potatoes; I made inquiries if that was extensively used through the parish, and the answer that I received was, that it was extensively used, and I certainly found people who it appeared at that time had not more than two meals in a day, and those very scanty; the potatoes are of the very worst description that I ever saw anywhere.

2291. Your former parish in which you had been previously residing was on the sea-shore; did you ever see them use sea-weed?—I saw them using sloke and dillisk and cockles in the summer, but I never saw them use the same description of sea-weed as I saw used in Gweedore extensively; the top of the black rock, that was only used for manure in my former parish, but in Gweedore I saw it boiled for food.

2292. Could you say whether there had been any partial failure of the potato crop in that summer?—I think there was a partial failure of the potato crop in that summer; the people remarked that it was not an average crop, and subsequently it failed in the pits.

2293. Do you know of potatoes rotting in pits?—Yes, in the different townlands of Brinlack, Glasshagh, Magaraclogher, Ardnagappary, and other townlands.

2294. Can you form an estimate what proportion of the crop was lost?—It was calculated at nearly one third.

2295. Did you go into many of the houses of the parish yourself?—I visited every townland in the parish, and nearly all the houses in the parish.

2296. Will you describe to the Committee their condition as to bedding and bedclothes generally?—As to the beds, I saw very few beds in the parish that I could call ordinary beds in the parish that I left, where there was scarcely a family that had not a good tick, with chaff in it, and sufficient bedclothes. In Gweedore, on the contrary, I found that the exceptions were those who had beds. For example, in the townland of Carrick, I do not think there were ten chaff beds or beds of any description covered with a tick, and I do not believe that the tenants had feather beds at all, with the exception of one publican, who had two beds, for which he received premiums from the landlord.

2297. What is the number of families in your parish and congregation?—Over 800 families.

2298. What proportion of those 800 families would you say were in that state of destitution which you have described, living on sea-weed and bad potatoes?—Between 500 and 600 families use it as a means of food along with the potatoes; but as to butter, or milk, or eggs, they do not use them, or they have not used them during the last winter, to my knowledge.

2299. Have you known the females of a family have but one common dress among them?—Yes, that is very general through the parish; and when I insisted upon the members of the family coming to the chapel belonging to the locality, I found that they were not able, because they had not sufficient covering to come out in, and I in many cases exempted them on that account. I have frequently known the mother come to chapel one Sunday with the dress, and her daughter has had the same dress on the next Sunday at home; the dress was very bad.

2300. Do you know whether the rents on Lord George Hill's estate were collected earlier this year than they were in previous years, from what you have heard?—I do; the rents were collected this year on the 1st of November; this was announced at the chapel gate, and I was passing by at the time, and I heard the people then murmuring that it was collected so early; that it was not the usual time for collecting the rents; and on examining the receipts, they will show that the receipts of the previous years are dated December, or the latter end of November, and the receipts of this year were from the 1st to the 14th of November.

2301. Do you know whether the people were obliged to sell their cattle to meet the rents and taxes?—I live in the fair town of Derrybeg, and in the October and November fairs the people drove in great numbers of their cattle, and they were bought

bought at least one-third under their value. It was remarked on that occasion by the people that they were selling them at a great sacrifice. October and November are very unfavourable times for selling cattle in every part of the County Donegal.

2302. Have you known them sell their oats and potatoes?—That is very general.

2303. Were they sold at an unfavourable season?—A very unfavourable season. They thrash their oats in October, and the straw was rendered useless; they brought the oats to the Bunbeg store, Lord George Hill's store, and the Dunfanaghy store, and they were selling them for 8 *d.* and 8½ *d.* a stone.

2304. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What were the potatoes sold for?—They were sold by the barrel for 13 *s.* and 13 *s.* 6 *d.*

2305. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] How many stone in a barrel?—Eighty stone in a barrel; about half a ton; that was in October, November and December.

2306. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] What is the present price?—I think that one would give more than 1 *l.* a barrel during seed time.

2307. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Have you known them go great distances to get money to pay the rents and the taxes?—I have known the father of a family to go to the county of Derry to get his son's wages; and they have borrowed money in the Rosses, and elsewhere; and they have gone to Doe and Rosskill for money.

2308. Coming to the townland of Carrick, that is in your parish, is it not?—It is.

2309. How many families are there in that townland?—There are 70 families in Carrick.

2310. How many of those families use sea-weed habitually?—About 60, with the exception of Charles M'Cue, Billy Coyle, Paddy Ginlay, and seven others who do not use it as an article of food, the others extensively, to economise their potatoes.

2311. Has their rent been raised?—It has, from 42 *l.* to 101 *l.* 16 *s.*, and I think the new cuts, 20 *l.*; and there is another part that two men still retain, in connexion with their own strips, and for that they pay 1 *l.* 3 *s.* I consider that what Mr. Doherty says about the rental is all perfectly accurate. There is one part that he did not state, with regard to Innishirrer, the rental of that townland was very much raised.

2312. Do you know the townland of Luniagh?—Yes.

2313. How many families are there there?—Thirty-one families.

2314. How many live on sea-weed?—Twenty.

2315. Come now to the townland of Magheraclogher; how many families are there there?—Fifty-two families.

2316. How many of those 52 families use the sea-weed extensively as part of their food?—A great number of the Magheraclogher people use sea-weed; there may be some exceptions; for instance, Shane Mullagan, Mrs. People, and a very few others.

2317. How many families are there in Magheragallen?—Twenty-two.

2318. How many of those 22 families use sea-weed habitually as part of their food?—About 12, and those who do not require to use it as a means of support, use it along with the potatoes; a stone of potatoes which would last two days without sea-weed would last four days with it.

2319. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do not they use it as a means of support?—They do not; they use it as what is commonly called "kitchen," but others use large quantities of it to make the food extend further.

2320. Do the others use it from choice?—They use it because they have not better.

2321. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Now, with regard to the townland of Ardnagapparry, how many families are in it?—Fifty.

2322. Out of those how many are obliged to use sea-weed to prolong their food?—There are about 12 who do not require to use it.

2323. How many families are there in the townland of Stramakilmartin?—Twelve.

2324. Out of those 12 families, how many are obliged to use sea-weed?—About eight.

2325. In the townland of Stranacorcragh, how many families are there?—Twenty families.

2326. How many of those 20 families use sea-weed as an article of food?—About 15.

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2327. How many families are there in the island of Innishirrer?—Six; and all the families there, with the exception of one, are obliged to use sea-weed; they do not live constantly on that island, they only live there a part of the winter and part of the summer; they have land on the shore.

2328. While they are living there, are they obliged to use see-weed?—They are.

2329. In what state is the bed and bedding of those townlands, that have been mentioned to you?—Exceedingly bad; they had scarcely any bed-clothing in many cases before they received relief, and I have known instances of six and seven lying under the same covering. I endeavoured to prevent it as far as I could, but I found that the people had not the means of making second beds, for they had no covering, and they were obliged to lie indiscriminately under the same covering; and, in some cases, the father and the male children lay in one corner, and the mother and the females in the other.

2330. What sort of clothing had they?—The females were very badly clothed.

2331. Was it sufficient for warmth or decency?—No; I have been called in to attend persons who were reduced to such a state that I saw them nearly on the point of death, from exposure to the weather, without sufficient clothing, and I could give their names if necessary.

2332. You are treasurer to the relief fund?—I am.

2333. In your opinion, from what you saw of the people, was that appeal to public charity rendered necessary by the state of the people?—We considered it absolutely necessary, otherwise the people would have perished before the end of the summer; many of them would have either perished or gone to the workhouse and given up their lands

2334. How much did you receive altogether?—I received 2,196*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*

2335. Will you state generally how you applied that?—I applied it in clothing; I paid to Mr. Gallagher of Letterkenny 615*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*; Patrick M'Fadden, clothing, 44*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*

2336. Can you tell us in round numbers how much was expended in food, and how much in clothing?—I can.

2337. Could you form an estimate of how much you spent in the purchase of clothes?—I have not calculated it yet.

2338. Will you be able to give it to us?—Yes, I will hand in the items.

2339. How much money was applied to food and clothing altogether?—All this money has been applied in food and clothing, and incidental expenses connected with the relief.

2340. Lord *Naas.*] Was anything given away in coin?—Yes; 310*l.* was given in money to buy seed, and 50*l.* 6*s.* was given also in money, but that was for poor people that were destitute.

2341. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*]. And how much have you expended altogether?—About 1,600*l.*

2342. Have you given away all the food and clothing, or have you any stock on hand?—All the clothing is given away, with the exception of 8*l.*

2343. And has all the food been distributed?—We have distributed considerably over 500*l.* worth of food; I would say 550*l.*

2344. Was any part of that fund applied to any purpose but the relief of the people?—Not one halfpenny.

2345. Were they in such a condition as in your opinion to render it necessary that such relief should be applied for and obtained for them?—They were.

2346. I believe the distribution of food and clothing took place at your house?—I superintended the distribution of the clothing, and signed their tickets in my own district, from me to Mr. Henry Moffatt and Mr. M'Fadden.

2347. We have heard that some gentlemen were written to to come down from Dublin on the occasion of one distribution?—I believe the secretary did communicate with the proprietor or editor of the "Evening Post," but the people were not apprised that any stranger would be there on that day.

2348. Did he see them on that occasion in their ordinary normal state?—He did.

2349. There was no getting up a scene?—No, on the contrary, I think they were better dressed than ordinarily, for it was a cold day, and they borrowed clothes from their neighbours.

2350. Did Mr. Hamilton the Poor-law Inspector, call upon you?—He did not; he

he promised to call upon Mr. M'Fadden on returning from Gweedore, and we were there to meet him, but he did not call.

2351. Did he call at your residence?—I am not aware that he did.

2352. Were you in the district on the day he visited it?—I was gone to Letterkenny to purchase clothing, but he did not leave any message for me at my house, or go to my house, to the knowledge of my servant.

2353. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You say you were never there till last September?—I knew nothing of the district before.

2354. Of your own knowledge you know nothing except what you saw last September?—Nothing.

2355. Do you know anything of making kelp on the shore?—All I know is very trifling: they did not make any kelp; they are beginning to make kelp now, but it is considered a complete failure, for the kelp that they received 5 *s.* for last year they will not receive 2 *s.* 6 *d.* this.

2356. Lord *Naas.*] Why is that?—It will not be the price.

2357. When do they generally sell it; do they not sell it in the autumn?—Yes.

2358. How can they tell now what the price will be?—The kelp merchants know how the price will go, at least they say so; and I heard them say so; and I think there will be very little kelp made in this district this year; the sea-weed was driven along the coast, over to Mr. Olphert's property.

2359. Mr. *Dobbs.*] There will be more made, in consequence, on Mr. Olphert's property?—Yes, and the people will be better off.

2360. What part are you now speaking of?—Gweedore.

2361. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Can you put in a list of the names of those who obtained relief in food or clothing, and the dates?—I can; I have only with me a list of the names of those who were relieved in the district of Gweedore; but as to the date of their relief, it commenced on the 8th of March, in clothing; the relief in food commenced on the 17th of March, and the money for seed was given out before the 20th of April.

2362. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Was the 1,600*l.* that you say was given, confined to Gweedore, or was it given in other places?—It was not confined to Gweedore; part of it was given in Cloughaneely. I have only the names of those in Gweedore, and some few in Cloughaneely.

2363. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Who could supply the list for Cloughaneely?—The Rev. Mr. M'Fadden.

2364. You will put in the list of the names of those in the Gweedore district?—I will. Here is the relief in clothing which each peasant got (*handing a document to the honourable Member*); part of this list has already been published; 170 names have been published in the "Evening Post."

2365. *Chairman.*] During the short time that you have had an acquaintance with those people, what have their statements been to you in order to account for the more distressed state in which they are now than they were in formerly; to what do they attribute it?—They attribute their present wretched condition to the taking away of the mountains, to the doubling of the rents (and I believe in some instances they have been nearly trebled), and also to the increased taxation this year.

Lunæ, 14° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bagwell.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	Mr. P. Wykeham Martin.
Mr. Serjeant Deasy.	Lord Naas.
Mr. Dobbs.	Sir William Somerville.
Sir Edmund Hayes.	

JOHN BAGWELL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Dennis Holland*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *D. Holland.*

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2366. Mr. *Maguire.*] YOU live in Belfast, do you not?—Yes.

2367. What is your profession?—I am the proprietor and editor of the "Ulsterman" newspaper.

2368. Did you visit the districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely?—I did.

2369. When?—In the end of last November and the beginning of December.

2370. Were you there for any length of time?—About 10 days.

2371. What was your object in going there?—I had heard and read a great many statements regarding the destitution of the districts, and I wished to ascertain the facts for myself.

2372. Did you endeavour while there by inquiry and inspection to ascertain the real state of the district?—I did.

2373. Did you visit many of the houses of the peasantry?—I did.

2374. Was one of the first places to which you went Ballyboes in Cloughaneely?—Yes; the property of the Reverend Mr. Nixon.

2375. Did you go into any of the houses on that property?—I did.

2376. How many houses did you go into?—I could not actually say; I went at random into a house here and there.

2377. Will you describe to the Committee the condition of those houses and the people in them to the Committee?—The houses were the most wretched cabins I have seen in Ireland, externally as well as internally; they were houses generally of one single room.

2378. In what condition was the dress of the inhabitants?—The peasantry were very ragged; very wretched looking, and the houses were very squalid; in some of the houses there were no tables; the beds were little bundles of some kind of rags, that I did not examine, tied up in a corner. In some cases the people were sitting on little heaps of turf, and in other cases they had, I think, things called bosses made of straw.

2379. Did you observe tables and bedsteads, or what you would call beds in those cabins?—In some cases I saw something like a table, and in other cases I did not.

2380. Did you observe any other beds but those which you describe as bundles of rags?—No; I should say that, in some houses, in all of those to which I refer, there was either a sheep, or a little ragged cow, occupying the same room as the peasantry.

2381. Did you inquire into the cause of the destitution that you observed and described?—I did ask the cause.

2382. Before you go into the cause of it, did you make any inquiry as to the food of the people?—Not minutely there; I did in other places further on, but not at that particular place; that is to say, I did not see it; I was told about it, but I did not see it there.

2383. Did

2383. Did you ask what was the cause, and inquire into the cause of the destitution which you have described?—Yes.

2384. What was it?—The principal cause that the peasantry gave to me was the taking away of large tracts of mountain land from them which they and their ancestors had been using from time immemorial.

2385. Did they speak of arable land having been taken from them?—They did; they said that a considerable portion of land had been taken from them, and they said it was land which they themselves or their fathers had reclaimed.

2386. You are speaking of the property of the Rev. Mr. Nixon?—Yes.

2387. Did the people say that any large number of acres had been taken from them in that district?—I think upwards of 2,000 acres.

2388. Amongst the causes to which the people ascribed their destitution was the taking away of something like 2,000 acres of mountain land, and also the arable land; did they ascribe their destitution to other causes, such as duty days?—They complained there and in other places of having been compelled to work at certain times for the landlord at no pay, gratuitously; they call them duty days.

2389. Did they say they were obliged to work for many days in the year?—I do not know how many days they said, but they seemed to say that the number of days was very considerable.

2390. The number of days for which they got no payment was very considerable?—Yes.

2391. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Who did they work for?—For their landlord.

2392. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did you inquire particularly as to the operation of that system; were you satisfied with one statement, or did you inquire of many persons as to the fact?—I inquired of several.

2393. And you found that on that property it was the custom for the landlord to employ the people on certain days, and not give them any wages in remuneration?—So they said to me.

2394. And they complained of that to you?—They did.

2395. Did they say anything about the poor rate?—On that estate some of the tenants complained to me, that though their rent had not reached that amount at which they were legally liable for poor rate, the landlord afterwards exacted the poor rate from them. Of course, I had only their own statement for that.

2396. Did they say that they were compelled to pay the poor rate?—Yes.

2397. Have you any reason to doubt the truth of what they said?—I did not doubt it. I thought they were speaking the truth.

2398. Was there anything said of the clearings on that property?—I did not hear of clearings, beyond the fact that the land had been taken from them.

2399. The mountain land and the arable land?—Yes.

2400. The complaint was that the people were compelled to pay the poor rates, and to work without remuneration?—Yes, at certain times of the year.

2401. Were you on the property of Mr. Olphert, at Keeldrum?—Yes, I was.

2402. Did you inquire as to the condition of the people on that property?—I looked into their condition; it was very similar to that of the other property.

2403. Did you see any portion of the land on that property marked out into what are called new cuts?—I did; there were tracts of mountain land, wet bog, which had been cut out into large squares, and those, they told me, had been taken from the tenantry, and had been marked out as small farms, to be let out to any person that chose to take them at a certain rent.

2404. Did you see any preparation for the occupancy of the future tenantry on those new cuts?—Yes, I saw what I call stages of reclamation of this land; on some cuts I saw cabins, or huts, made of what they call scraws, the upper surface of the turf cut off, and walls made of them, a sort of round tent, or cabin, and the man and his wife who had built it were living in one of them.

2405. The preparation for the occupancy of the land by those people was made by themselves?—Entirely made by themselves. This man that I have spoken of was engaged in building a dry stone house close by, like the cabins which I have seen on the road side in the other places.

2406. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Had this man any land?—He had this patch of land of

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which I have spoken, a new cut, a large square of land; I could not say how many acres; perhaps it might have been five or six.

2407. There was no house on it except this?—No, except this turf cabin, and the house which he was then engaged in building.

2408. There was a turf cabin before, was there?—He had built this turf cabin himself, and he was living in it till the other house should be finished.

2409. Mr. *Maguire.*] He had built both?—Yes; he had built both.

2410. Did you inquire whether it was the landlord or the tenant that had built it?—It was the tenant.

2411. Have you the name of the man?—I do not know the name of any particular man; but this is the case of 20 or 30 or 40 that I had seen along the road till I got to the Gweedore Hotel in the course of my journey. I had seen it in several places, and I took no note of the names.

2412. In any place did you find that it was the landlord who had built the cabin?—No.

2413. Did you find that in every case it was the tenant who had built the cottage at his own expense?—Yes.

2414. Have you any information to give to the Committee with regard to Tory Island?—I did not visit Tory Island, and I know nothing of it beyond this: that a distraint, or some legal document, the exact name of which I do not know, was put in my hand as having been issued by the landlord of Tory Island, distraining a quantity of kelp that was in a store on the island. I believe the kelp, at least so I was informed, belonged to all the tenants on the island. This kelp had been put into this store for some Glasgow manufacturer, and it had been distrained by the landlord to compel all the tenants to pay the rent in a lump. I took a copy of the document. This was one of the causes of the distress.

2415. Do you gather from that document that there was an increase of rent on Tory Island?—Yes; there was an increase of rent; from 145 *l.* to 212 *l.*, or thereabouts.

2416. Mr. *Dobbs.*] How do you know of the increased rent?—I have no personal knowledge of it beyond this document, and what the people told me.

2417. Have you that document here?—I have not the document here, but I took a copy of it, which I published afterwards, and which I can read.

2418. What document is it?—It is a notice, in Irish, of a distress for rent.

2419. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was that on the property of Mr. Woodhouse?—Yes, Mr. J. O. Woodhouse.

2420. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What was the sum for which the distress was levied?—One hundred and six pounds.

2421. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was that a half-year's rent?—It was a half-year's rent. This was one of the causes of distress given to me by some of the peasants there as a sample of the new state of things, of which they complained as being very distressing. They had been paying 145 *l.* a year as the gross rental of this island, and it had been raised to 212 *l.* They said that the custom always had been to pay the rent once a year, and that the landlord had suddenly ordered them to pay it half-yearly henceforth, and in the enforcing of this demand he had suddenly, without notice, put this distraint upon the store in which they had all stored their kelp, and which kelp, they stated, was then the property of some Glasgow manufacturer, I think.

2422. From how much did you state that the rental of the island was increased?—They said from 145 *l.* 7 *s.* to 212 *l.*

2423. Was that within a recent time?—Within a recent time.

2424. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You have no authority for saying that, except the statement of the people?—No authority whatever except that, and this document which the people handed to me.

2425. Mr. *Maguire.*] To go back a moment to the property of Mr. Nixon, did the people there state that the rents of their farms had been increased?—Yes.

2426. Did they state that the rents had been increased by the mountain lands being taken from them?—I cannot say that that was done in all instances; but they told me, in some instances, that not only had the mountain land been taken away from them, but the rent on the remainder, which was the original rent, including the mountain land and all, had been increased.

2427. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do you know the names of any who told you this?—I know the names in some cases, but I have a decided objection to mentioning the names.

2428. Mr. *Maguire.*] Why?—Because they exhibited great reluctance to having their names mentioned.

2429. What was their motive?—They were afraid that it would anger the landlord.

2430. You speak that of your own knowledge?—Yes.

2431. You found the people reluctant to give you the use of their names?—Most decidedly reluctant.

2432. Did you make inquiries of people who said that they were tenants of this property?—Yes, I did.

2433. You went to the townland of Middletown, did you not?—Yes; that is between Derrybeg and Bunbeg, and I was told that the property was Lord George Hill's property.

2434. Is it near this that the Gweedore Hotel is?—Yes, very near this.

2435. Are there not some pretty cottages and buildings near that place?—I saw some very pretty cottages; I saw a pretty school-house and church belonging to the perpetual curate, but I could not discover that there was any congregation. There were some pretty cottages inhabited by revenue officers and policemen, and persons told me that there were some Scripture readers living in some of them.

2436. What was the appearance presented by the houses in which the peasantry lived?—They were abominably wretched places; I never saw places so bad externally and internally. I should speak as one who was not accustomed to that district.

2437. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Had you ever seen the district before?—I had never seen the district before.

2438. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Had you ever seen any similar district?—I had seen the worst districts in the south; Skull and Skibbereen, and those districts, in the time of the famine in 1846, 1847, and 1848.

2439. Lord *Naas.*] You say you were in Skull and Skibbereen during the famine?—Yes.

2440. Do you wish the Committee to believe, that the state of things that you witnessed in Gweedore, was as bad as the destitution which you witnessed at Skull and Skibbereen in the time of the famine?—No, I did not say that; I said that the houses which I had seen at the place called Middletown, were worse than the dwellings which I had seen at Skull and Skibbereen.

2441. Your remark only applied to dwellings?—Yes.

2442. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did you in Skull and Skibbereen see any houses so bad as those you now are about to describe in Middletown?—No.

2443. Will you describe the condition of those houses that you saw?—I went into a great many there, and one which I remember most distinctly, will answer as a specimen of the whole.

2444. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Where was it?—I think it is called Middletown; it is between a place called Derrybeg and the Gweedore Hotel, or between Derrybeg and Bunbeg; this is in the district called Gweedore.

2445. Mr. *Maguire.*] You were about to give an example of one house, as an exemplification of the others?—This house which I allude to was, I remember, four or five feet below the level of the road; it was a single chamber; there was a little wall of turf made at one end of it; a kind of screen about five feet high and four feet in length; inside that was a little mountain cow. By the fire a man was seated in very ragged clothing; he had no coat on, and the rest of his clothing was very ragged; he had a sickly child in his arms, and there was a pot over the fire containing sea weed and other stuff (I do not know exactly what it was; it was very offensive-looking and smelling stuff), which he was preparing for food; opposite him was seated another child on a little turf heap; the fire was made of damp turf, it smoked very much, and seemed to give out but little heat; there was a deal table, and that was all the furniture I noticed.

2446. Was there a bed?—There was a quantity of some kind of rags tied up in a bundle in one corner, which answered as a sort of seat or couch, and, I suppose, was a bed at night.

2447. Lord *Naas.*] What was the man's name?—I did not take the man's

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name down; but this was the condition of nearly every one of those cabins which I had seen on the right-hand side of the road from Derrybeg to Bunbeg I did not care to take his name down, or any special name in this instance, because, first, the people objected to it, and, secondly, because that was the condition of nearly all the houses that I saw.

2448. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] There has been a list of 92 names furnished to the Committee, and there could be no objection to your giving the name in this instance?—I did not take down the names, with but two or three exceptions.

2449. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did you think it necessary to take notice of names when you saw the distress almost universal?—No; it was the condition of almost all the houses that I saw.

2450. Who went with you?—The Rev. Mr. Doherty was with me at that time. I should say that he did not expect me. I came down solely to satisfy myself, and I made him come with me, and show me the peasantry.

2451. What was your object in coming down into that district?—To satisfy my own eyes. I was there for ten days. I wished to satisfy myself, as I had received a variety of statements about the condition of the district, and I hesitated to publish them until I had satisfied myself.

2452. Was Mr. Doherty with you every day?—Yes, he was.

2453. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You did not ask him the names of the occupants of those houses which seemed specially bad?—I knew the names of some of the people, but I did not keep them on my memory, because the people requested me not to mention their names.

2454. Mr. *Maguire.*] Does the description which you have given apply to nearly all the houses that you saw?—Yes, with the exception of those pretty cottages.

2455. What was the state of the day clothing of the women?—The women were very thinly clad, but they were clad sufficiently for the purposes of decency; they had no shoes or stockings, or anything of that kind.

2456. Were they sufficiently clad to resist the severity of the season?—Possibly they were; I should suppose that that would depend a great deal upon physical constitution; but I should suppose that it was extremely trying.

2457. Were the rates being collected at that time?—They were; that is to say, the people told me that the police had been collecting the rates.

2458. Did the people complain of the pressure of those rates?—They complained of the pressure of the rates, and that 3,000 *l.* had been levied out of the district. They said that they had sold their little stock in some instances; and in others they had got money from their neighbours or sons, who were at service in other parts of the country, or other parts of the county of Donegal; They said that in consequence of the mountain land being taken away, they were unable to feed their stock, and their destitution was great.

2459. Did you find from inquiries that the people had an objection to go into the workhouse?—A very strong objection.

2460. Did they say why?—Those people all hold small patches of land, and they would have had to give up those patches of land, I understood, to be admitted into the workhouse.

2461. Then from the explanation which you got as to the feelings of the people in reference to going into the workhouse, would you state that the fact of a small number of people being in the workhouse was an indication of prosperity, or the contrary?—I should think it was no test whatever.

2462. Did you understand that many people lived by begging, or any number of the people?—I understood from some of the people themselves that some of those people who held patches of farm land did at certain times of the year go begging, and that some of them made out their rents by going to Scotland at harvest time; in fact, as well as I could understand from them, the system seemed to be this, that some of the men went to Scotland during the harvest, and the women and children begged along the roads.

2463. Did you see the cuts in this district?—Yes they were the same as those I have already described in every particular.

2464. Had you many opportunities of seeing the distress of the people during your visit?—Yes; I devoted all my time to seeing the people and inspecting their condition.

2465. Did you see the people in any large numbers from time to time?—On the morning after I came to Derrybeg, where I was inspecting the houses of the people,

people, they suddenly learnt that their priest had come, and they gathered out in large numbers about him.

2466. Who was their priest?—The Reverend Mr. Doherty; he had been their priest formerly, but he is not their priest now.

2467. What was their appearance?—They looked very ragged and very destitute; they were mild, gentle looking people, but they seemed in extreme destitution.

2468. Did you ever see in any part of Ireland a people more destitute, or as destitute?—Not except in the time of the famine.

2469. You state that they seemed to be an intelligent and mild people?—A very intelligent looking people, and very mild. I was astonished to see the people exhibit so much intelligence in the midst of so much physical destitution; for the aspect of the district was very revolting.

2470. Has any attempt been made to instruct the people in a better system of agriculture?—I saw what seemed like the ruins of an unfinished model school.

2471. There has been no attempt, as far as you have seen, to teach the people an improved system of agriculture?—I saw no evidence of it whatever.

2472. Did you find that any improvement was made by the people themselves?—Yes, with the exception of a quantity of land which Lord George Hill has taken into his possession, and which surrounds the hotel, there is no evidence of improvement, except what has been begun by the people.

2473. Have you any evidence to give with reference to the manufacture of kelp?—The peasantry there seemed in considerable alarm, and expressed fears that the landlords would put a tax upon the kelp.

2474. Why were they in considerable alarm?—Because one landlord has already done it.

2475. Who was that?—I think it was Mr. Nixon; he levied some tax on the manufacture of kelp in some shape or other. I do not know the shape in which it was collected.

2476. Was that example by Mr. Nixon attempted to be followed by others?—It was tried in the case of another landlord; it had been attempted, but it had been prevented by the agent of the Marquess of Conyngham, who owned the royalties on that part of the coast.

2477. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Is that in this district of Gweedore?—It is close by this district.

2478. Mr. *Maguire.*] The apprehension was owing to the fact that one landlord had done it, and another had attempted it?—Yes.

2479. Is it your opinion that the people can continue to live under the present circumstances in which they are placed?—It is not. I cannot conceive how they can endure their present destitution. The very farms which I saw on Lord George Hill's property, several of which stretched down to the sea, and on which the sands seemed to be encroaching, were not the breadth of this room. They were long strips of land, with pieces of rock forcing up to them, and this boggy marshy land was cultivated for potatoes, or vegetables, or something of that sort. Those people complained that the mountain opposite had been taken from them, and large portions given to Scotch graziers, and other portions parcelled out into cuts, and offered to them at an additional rent if they would till it. In one instance, one of those strips was so narrow that whoever built the cabin on it was forced to build it gable-wise, because if he had built it lengthwise, he would have encroached upon the neighbouring farm.

2480. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Do you know the contents of one of those new cuts that were so narrow, and that stretched down to the sea?—I do not know anything about the measurement of land.

2481. Do you know what was the acreage of this strip?—I do not know.

2482. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Have you any idea?—I do not know anything about the measurement of land; it appeared about the breadth of this room, and twice or three times the length.

2483. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] With regard to the new cuts; who were the occupiers of the new cuts?—I do not know; they were peasants of the district.

2484. They were not people from a distance?—No.

2485. They were very likely people from the same township?—I should think so.

Mr. *D. Holland.*

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2486. Do you know how long they had had those new cuts?—Perhaps in some instances two or three years.

2487. Do you know the terms on which those new cuts are granted to them?—I think in two or three cases the rent was mentioned to me as 4 *s.* 6 *d.* and 5 *s.* 6 *d.* an acre; and one or two cuts that were shown to me the tenants said that they were paying 25 *s.* a year for.

2488. Are they insured in those cuts for any length of time, for any period beyond a year or beyond six months?—No.

2489. You say they had been in possession about two years?—In some instances they had only been just in, I should think.

2490. The mountain land was taken away in the year 1847, or some time before, was it not?—I am not aware when it was taken away.

2491. The question I want to ask you is this: did the tenants of the new cuts complain of the taking away of the mountain land?—I did not ask the tenants whether they had anything to complain about the mountain land.

2492. Will you explain to the Committee what you mean by the duty days?—I do not well understand it myself; they told me that on certain days they did work.

2493. Do you know what sort of work they did upon the duty days?—They ploughed or reaped for the landlord, or they drew turf for the landlord, or for his agent, or bailiff, or land steward.

2494. Mr. *Maguire.*] You state that they ploughed and reaped for the landlord?—So I understood. In fact, they did farm work for him at certain times of the year.

2495. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Have you any idea how many days?—I do not know how many; I have no idea.

2496. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did they complain that they were compelled to do it a considerable number of days?—Yes.

2497. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Was this only on Mr. Nixon's land?—It was on the land of several landlords. It seemed to be a local system, and I did not make any particular notes of it.

2498. Was it on Lord George Hill's property?—I am not sure; but on the neighbouring property of Mr. Stewart, of Ards, in the district, some of the tenants told me that it was a considerable number of days.

2499. Sir *W. Somerville.*] Is it a new system, or of recent date?—I do not know.

2500. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Does that apply to all the landlords in the district?—I did not inquire, but it applied to several, and it was the impression on my mind that it applied to all.

2501. Lord *Naas.*] It applied, you say, to the property of Mr. Nixon and Mr. Stewart?—Yes.

2502. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Did it apply to Lord George Hill's property?—I am not sure.

2503. Did it apply to Mr. Woodhouse's?—Yes.

2504. And to Mr. Olphert's?—Yes.

2505. They had employed people on duty work, you say?—That seemed to be the system.

2506. You did not ask how many duty days each man was called upon to work?—I did not make any such inquiry.

2507. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You state that you were told that the women were in the habit of begging while the men went to Scotland?—Yes.

2508. Did you ever hear of that being done in any other part of Ireland?—I have heard of something of the kind being done in the extreme west of Ireland.

2509. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Did you, when you went into any of those houses, ask as to the quantity of cattle that they had?—Yes. In some cases I saw what cattle they had; in one case I saw a cow and a sheep.

2510. In such a case as that, did you ask whether they had any more?—In one or two cases I did, and they said that they had no more.

2511. Generally speaking, amongst all those families you do not know what quantity of cattle they had beyond what you saw in their houses?—No.

2512. In one or two cases you saw a cow in their houses?—In several houses I saw either a cow or a couple of sheep tenanting the same room as the families themselves.

2513. Were those families large families generally?—In some cases, I should say, they were five or six, and in others three or four in family.

2514. Of all ages?—Of all ages.

2515. From 15 and 16 downwards?—Yes.

2516. Did you ask any of those people who were in this extreme destitution, why they did not go to the poorhouse?—Yes.

2517. What was their answer?—They had a strong objection to go to the poorhouse in any instance; they preferred almost starving to going to the poorhouse; the general apprehension in their minds was, that they should have to give up their patches of land, and there were cases in which they said that some would go into the workhouse, and others would remain out and work, if they were allowed that; but they were all to go into the workhouse.

2518. Are you aware, that according to law, all above 15 years of age can go to the workhouse independent of the rest of the family?—I am not aware of that.

2519. You are probably not acquainted with the provisions of the Irish poor law?—I am not intimately acquainted with the provisions of the Irish poor law.

2520. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] You state that you were ten days in the district altogether?—Ten clear days.

2521. Can you give the Committee any estimate of the number of houses that you actually inspected yourself during those 10 days?—I might say that I saw 30 or 40, perhaps there were a hundred houses; but I went into one here and there; I could not spare the time to go into every house, and I just took the houses casually; I should say there were about 40 that I visited.

2522. Did you take them indiscriminately?—I took them indiscriminately. I went away from the priest and I went into the houses alone. In most of my visits the priest was not with me.

2523. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You saw a great number of people, did you not?—Yes.

2524. What was their appearance as to health?—They seemed to be in tolerably good health; fair average health.

2525. Did you see any cases of sickness in the houses that you went into?—I saw some cases of sickly children.

2526. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did they give you the idea that they were well fed?—No; they looked very thin.

2527. You say their clothes are very bad?—Yes, I should say that the women looked more healthy than the men, on the whole.

2528. Did they give you the idea of a very wretched population?—Very wretched; the day I was there a number of them complained to me that they had been up the mountain collecting the Scotch sheep that had gone astray. While I was talking to the priest a man rushed in and said that one of those men was dying on the mountain while he was collecting the Scotch sheep. I mention that case as one that struck me as a case of extreme destitution.

2529. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] What was the man's name?—Paddy Gallagher.

2530. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Did you see the man?—I did not see him, but a man rushed in and said Paddy Gallagher was dying; he came in and took the priest away, and he came back shortly after and said that poor Paddy Gallagher was gone. I inquired about him, and they said that he was a young stout man about 30 years of age.

2531. *Chairman.*] From your inspection of that district during the 10 days, and from ocular demonstration you were led to believe that the people were in a very destitute state?—Extremely destitute.

2532. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Have you had any opportunity of comparing those people with any other district of Ireland except Skull and Skibbereen in the famine year?—Not of late years.

2533. Have you not seen either of those districts since the famine years?—Yes; I have seen them rather later than the famine year, and they struck me as being infinitely superior to the people of the district of Gweedore.

2534. Sir *William Somerville.*] You were never in that district before?—I was never in that district before.

Thomas M'Bride, called in; and Examined.

Thomas M'Bride.

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2535. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] WHERE do you live?—In Gweedore.

2536. What part of Gweedore; what is the name of the townland?—Magheralosk.

2537. Are you any relation of Hugh M'Bride?—We are of one name, but I cannot say that we are any friends.

2538. What are you yourself?—A farmer.

2539. How much land have you?—Four cows' grass; I cannot say how many acres.

2540. What rent do you pay for it?—Five pounds.

2541. How long have you been paying that rent?—For the last three years.

2542. What was your rent before the last three years?—£. 2. 12 *s.* 6 *d.* for the four cows' grass.

2543. Before 1854 did you graze the mountain with your cattle?—Yes.

2544. What was the name of the mountain?—Tor, and other mountains.

2545. Are those mountains on Lord George Hill's estate?—Yes.

2546. How long have you been in the habit of grazing cattle upon those mountains before 1854?—Since I mind.

2547. How long do you mind?—For the last 30 years.

2548. How old are you now?—Somewhere about 39.

2549. Were all the people allowed to graze on the mountains as long as you recollect?—They were, and they were never prevented by any person.

2550. How many families are there in this townland of Magheralosk?—There are 12.

2551. How many of those families have cows, or a cow?—There are five without cows.

2552. And are there seven that have them?—Yes; there are some whose cows do not belong to themselves.

2553. Whom do they belong to?—To sons or daughters that are at wages in the Laggan and in Scotland.

2554. How many cows have those seven families; what is the largest number that any of them have?—Two is the largest number.

2555. How many of them have two cows?—About three.

2556. And the rest have one cow, have they not?—Yes; I had a list of them; I gave the list to Hugh M'Bride, and I could recollect by looking at it.

2557. Do you know how many of those 12 families used sea-weed with their food?—Mostly the whole of them; I could not except one.

2558. How long have they been using the sea-weed?—They have been using it these many years, but never so constant as since November.

2559. How is it that they use it?—They boil it; but some of them do not boil it. It requires about two hours boiling to give it the proper boiling; but some of them do not give it more than 10 minutes, and some only scald it.

2560. Have they a reason for doing that?—They have; because it is far stronger, in order to prolong their food, because they can do with half the quantity of potatoes when they get plenty of sea-weed.

2561. How are they off for clothes and bedding?—Very badly off indeed. There are not more than five beds in the townland of Magheralosk and Meenaduff; they have only straw, and when the cow wants the straw for fodder beds they only get the brackens.

2562. Have they clothes enough to go to mass in on Sundays?—No; some part of the family go, and the other part do not go.

2563. Is that for want of clothes?—It is. I have known families in Magheralosk that have not gone to chapel for 12 years, for want of body clothes and shoes.

2564. Are they badly off for firing in that townland?—They are badly off for firing. There are 36 families in the townland of Meenaduff that have but one dark of turf each; they are so poorly off that they cannot buy the turf. In cold weather they get great starvation at night for want of bedclothes, and they have not a good fire.

2565. How do they sleep at night?—The father and mother lie one side of the fire, and the children the other side; some of the grown-up boys and girls sleep

sleep together. I have known a brother and sister sleeping together at the age of 30.

2566. How many families are there in the whole townland of Meenaduff?—I should say that there are now 36 families in what was formerly called Meenaduff; the townland was divided some time ago.

2567. How many should you think of those 36 families have cows this year? I had a list, and I gave it to Hugh M'Bride, of all that wanted cows, and those that had cows.

2568. How many should you think had cows?—I must call back upon my recollection before I can speak.

2569. Were there 30 without cows at the time you are speaking of?—No.

2570. Were there 20 without cows?—No, not 20 without cows; there are, I should say, five in Magheralosk without cows.

2571. Did you make out a list for Hugh M'Bride?—In some parts I made it out; he took one part of the country and I took the other, and I gave him the list of some townlands.

2572. Was the rent on all the 35 families' cows' grasses raised?—Yes, they were, since 1854.

2573. How much were they raised?—From about 12*s.* 6*d.* to 1*l.* 5*s.*

2574. Were there any new cuts made there?—No, there is no place for new cuts there.

2575. Have you known the people to be obliged to sell their stock to pay the taxes?—I have known plenty that have done that.

2576. Have you known them sell their potatoes?—Yes, and their oats too. I had to do it myself, and I had to sell three cows to pay my taxes. I sold one cow at 12*s.* a fortnight after calving, and another for 1*l.* 9*s.*

2577. Have you known that happen in other cases?—I have.

2578. With regard to Cronaguigy, do you know that place?—I do.

2579. Do you know the state of the people there?—They are very poor; there is not a bed in Cronaguigy.

2580. Is there any furniture there?—There is not a chair or a table.

2581. Do the people live on sea-weed?—They have to go five miles for the sea-weed; they live upon it when they can get it.

2582. Do all the people use sea-weed?—If they have the opportunity of getting it.

2583. Have they not all the opportunity of getting it?—No; the journey is so far.

2584. Have they not all the same opportunity of getting it?—They have; but often the people wanted it, as they had nothing else to manure the land with, and often they prevented them in our place from taking it; but they are at liberty now on account of the people being so poor and in such starvation that a man with any conscience would not prevent them from using the sea-weed.

2585. Was it the people of the other townland that prevented them from taking the wrack?—Yes; they were not prevented last year.

2586. Do they all use sea-weed this year?—Yes; every one.

2587. How many families are there on that townland of Cronaguigy?—Seven families.

2588. Do you know the townlands of Lower and Middle Dore?—I have been in every house in Lower and Middle Dore, and I know it very well.

2589. Can you tell the Committee how many families there are in Middle Dore?—Seventeen families.

2590. How many of them have been obliged to use sea-weed for their food his year?—They are mostly all obliged to use it except two families; it is as poor a place as there is in all the country. I could tell the number of beds and chairs that they have in the three Dores.

2591. Do you know Carrickataskin?—I do.

2592. Are there 40 or 50 families there?—I think there are not more than 17.

2593. Of those families, how many are obliged to use sea-weed for their food?—I believe they are all, except one-fourth, obliged to use it.

2594. Do you know how many beds there are on that townland?—There are very few beds. I have not taken the number of the beds; I think there are not on the average three beds for every seven families; not what I call beds.

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2595. How are they off for clothing?—Very badly off indeed.

2596. Have they any furniture?—They have no furniture there; it is a very poor place; there are some odd one or two in it that are not so badly off, but all the rest are uncommonly poor. They used to be well off in former times.

2597. Do you know this district of Gweedore very well?—I do; I have been there all my life, and I have been often through the districts, and I know them very well.

2598. Are they worse off this year than they were the year before?—They certainly are.

2599. The double rent and the taxes have driven them to desolation, and they will not be able to stand it at all, because when we were living in former times, if one of us had a son or a daughter who went to the Laggan and earned wages, and bought a stirk or lamb, we sent it to the mountain winter or summer; but since that we have had nothing to do; we have had no earning; we cannot get a day's earning from the country or the landlord.

2600. What is the rate of wages?—From 6 *d.* to 8 *d.* a day.

2601. Is there much employment in the district for labour?—None at all, unless cutting turf; they will then have to get some labour, and they are paid 1 *s.* for cutting turf in our neighbourhood.

2602. Was there any failure of the potato crop in this neighbourhood?—There was. I had seven barrels rotted in my pits, and the neighbours the same.

2603. How many barrels had you altogether?—About 14.

2604. About one-half of them rotted?—Yes, I had to shovel them out for manure.

2605. Was that general throughout the district?—Yes, in a great many parts. I often saw others shovelling them out, the same as I did, for manure.

2606. Were there any potatoes exported from that district?—No, there was not one; it was rumoured that there was; but I can say positively that there was not.

2607. Had there been any exported from it in the preceding year?—They were exported from the Rosses on the other side of the ferry, where we live.

2608. Were any oats exported this year?—Not to my knowledge; only to Bunbeg, Lord George Hill's store there. We used to send to Dunfanaghy when we had carts, as we could get 2 *d.* or 3 *d.* a stone more for our oats there than we did in Bunbeg store.

2609. Lord *Naas.*] Have you no means of sending them to Dunfanaghy now?—No, because there are only a few carts in the country, and they are engaged.

2610. Have you any other place where you can sell your oats except the store at Bunbeg?—No.

2611. If the store were not at Bunbeg, you would not have any market for your oats at all?—There were country people at one time who had money to buy oats in plenty before; but the people are so much reduced that they are not able to buy it now and make meal of it; it goes into the Bunbeg store now, and from that to Scotland or Derry, or wherever it goes.

2612. When was that?—About three or four years ago.

2613. When you were so much better off, did you not sell your oats at Bunbeg then?—It was very little that we sold there then.

2614. Where did you sell it?—We sold it to the countrymen who were making meal of it.

2615. Did the countrymen give you more than the people at the store at Bunbeg gave for it?—Yes, certainly, ½ *d.* a stone more.

2616. The dealers do not come now, do they?—No, because they are not able to buy it.

2617. Where did those dealers live?—In different parts. I knew them living in the townland where I live myself, and in other townlands too.

2618. There is no one living there now that deals in oats?—No, not in my neighbourhood; there is no one that can afford to do it.

2619. Was the greater part of the oats taken by the dealers, or at the store at Bunbeg?—Most of it was taken by the dealers before, because we could get more from them than from the store.

2620. Are there more oats now in the store at Bunbeg than there used to be?—I cannot say for that, because a vast deal of oats comes from the Rosses to Bunbeg; more than we have.

2621. Do they bring it all the way from the Rosses to Bunbeg?—Yes; 10 sacks for one sack that we bring.

2622. Are there other dealers in the Rosses that buy it?—There are some.

2623. Is it brought to the Bunbeg store by the dealers of the Rosses, or by the people themselves?—By the poor people themselves.

2624. How far is the Rosses from the Bunbeg store?—It is only about three quarters of a mile over the ferry.

2625. Still the people at the Rosses bring their oats to the Bunbeg store?—Yes, the Rosses people do.

2626. *Chairman.*] They bring it by water, do they not?—Yes; they bring it by water and they bring it on horseback.

2627. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Why do they not take it to Dunfanaghy if they get 2 *d.* or 3 *d.* more there?—Because it is inconvenient; they have to cross the ferry by the boat.

2628. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] How many head of cattle have you?—Two.

2629. You stated, did you not, that you had four cows' grass?—Yes.

2630. Are you in great destitution yourself?—I am not so badly off as the rest, though I am bad enough.

2631. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Have you only two cows?—That is all; a cow and a heifer.

2632. Have you anything else; have you a yearling, or a three year old, or have you any younger cattle?—No.

2633. Have you got a calf?—I have one calf.

2634. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Have your children any?—No.

2635. Are you yourself in great destitution?—I am in great enough destitution, but not so much as the rest of the country, because what clothes I have on me I should wear to mass on Sunday.

2636. Are those your own clothes?—Yes.

2637. The ordinary clothes that you wear every day are worse, but this is your best coat?—Yes.

2638. Are the other families in the district that you live in circumstanced in the same way; have they a good suit to wear to mass, and a bad suit to wear at home?—They go to mass in the same clothes that they have on every day.

2639. Have you any means of making money more than they have?—No, I have not.

2640. Have they the same means as you?—No; my father has some money, and he lives in the same house with me.

2641. You do not use any sea-weed, do you?—I use some of it, but not as much as the rest.

2642. Have you been in the habit of using it for some years, more or less?—I have, but I never used much of it; I have used it for an odd time.

2643. Did you pay any sheep tax?—I did.

2644. Did you get any relief money?—No, I did not.

2645. Did you get nothing from the relief?—Only the making of a pair of trousers.

2646. You got some clothes, did you?—Yes.

2647. As compensation for your tax?—I do not mean to say that it was in balance of the tax.

2648. Why did you get it?—Because they understood that I needed it; I have a helpless family of nine.

2649. Are the others in greater need than you are?—They are, some of them.

2650. They are not all as bad as you, are they?—There are some of them better; there are very few of them better off.

2651. If your father has money, how does it happen that when he is living in the house with you, you are in such a state of destitution that you are obliged to use sea-weed?—He would not allow me any of his money; he is an old man and he wishes to save his money till his latter days.

2652. Is his money in the bank?—No.

2653. He has money, but he does not wish to spend it in that way?—Yes, that is it.

2654. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Does your father eat sea-weed?—He never was obliged to eat sea-weed.

2655. Did you ever know him to eat it?—No; and there never was a grain of sea-weed used in my house till about a year or two ago.

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2656. Did your father get relief?—No, he did not.

2657. Did he get any clothes?—No, indeed he did not.

2658. How did your father get this money?—He got it in America; it was a legacy.

2659. Did he get as much as 100 *l.*?—Yes he did, and more.

2660. Was it 200 *l.* or 300 *l.*?—Yes, and more; but it is all gone through; there is a good deal of it expended now.

2661. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] How did you manage to get the clothes from the relief fund; whom did you get them from?—I was in the store; I was giving it to the poor of my own town; there were two appointed in each townland, that would distribute it conscientiously to those who were in need, and I was appointed for one.

2662. Lord *Naas.*] Did you get any payment for distributing the relief?—No.

2663. You did it for nothing?—I did it for the love of my poor neighbours that were in need of it.

2664. Are there any people in the district better off than you?—There are.

2665. Are there a good many better off?—Some.

2666. And there are a good many worse, are there not?—Yes.

2667. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Do you live by this farm of only four cows' grass?—Yes.

2668. Have you nothing else?—No. I just live miserably upon it; I have no other occupation. I cannot give my family three meals a day, and I am allowed to be as good a living man as any in the 36 families.

2669. Lord *Naas.*] Is there any fishing in that district?—No.

2670. Do none of those people go out fishing?—Yes, some of them do.

2671. Have they nets?—No, only single lines.

2672. Do they catch any quantity of fish?—Abut 2 *s.* 6 *d.* worth a day, from that to 6 *d.* I never knew them to get more than 2 *s.* 6 *d.* a day each.

2673. Where do they sell it?—Sometimes to the coast-guards in Bunbeg.

2674. Do the people ever eat the fish themselves?—No.

2675. How much fish would 2 *s.* 6 *d.* buy there?—I suppose that they would have about a dozen and a half of cod fish or white fish.

2676. Do you say that 2 *s.* 6 *d.* would buy a dozen and a half of cod fish?—Yes, small ones. We have a different name for the fish from what they have in England; the name that we have for the fish is "glashen."

2677. What size are they?—There are some of them about 10 inches long.

2678. Do they catch any lobsters?—Not on our part.

2679. Nor crabs?—Yes, they get crabs, but not the sort that I ever saw here.

2680. What do you think an active man in a boat would earn in fishing?—There are five men that go to one boat.

2681. What would they earn apiece, one day with another, in fine weather?—I would not say that they would earn 1 *d.* a head; they might be four days out and get nothing, and one day they might get 2 *s.* 6 *d.* or 1 *s.* 6 *d.*

2682. Do you ever fish yourself?—I never did.

2683. Still the people go out constantly to fish, do they not?—No; only in summer, and some odd times. They go away to the English harvest in August; there is not a man to stay at home to do anything, and their children go 33 miles to the Laggan, where there is a good Protestant country; and the children get employment herding.

2684. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] How many fishing boats are there in this district?—I do not know of any fishing boats; they are used for carrying the sea-weed.

2685. How many corraghs are there?—There are about five boats in my neighbourhood; there are corraghs in our place; they are in the islands.

2686. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do you say that you pay 5 *l.* for rent?—Yes, for four cows' grass.

2687. Is that all the rent that you pay?—That is all the rent I pay.

2688. How much of it have you under potatoes or oats?—I cannot tell you, because I know nothing about acres in our country. I never saw an acre in our country.

2689. How many stone of oats do you sow in a year?—I could not exactly say, because I did not measure it; it was 23 or 24 stone I sowed.

2690. How

2690. How much potatoes did you sow?—I cannot exactly tell you, because I had them in pits, and I did not measure them.

2691. You could give a guess, could not you?—I suppose there were about 14 or 15 measures.

2692. How much is a measure?—Eight stone a measure.

2693. Where do you get turf for fuel?—We get our turf in Mr. John Austin's estate.

2694. Have you any turf on your own land?—Not a clod.

2695. You say that you got something to make clothes of from the relief?—I did.

2696. How many children have you?—Six.

2697. What did your children get?—They got nothing at all.

2698. What did your wife get?—Nothing at all. There were two little dresses of a child.

2699. Did you get any blankets?—No, indeed I did not; I required it as much as they that got it, but I did not get it.

2700. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] You say you have known this place 30 years; do you recollect that the rent, some 19 or 20 years ago, was 1 *l.* for a cow's grass?—No; it never was.

2701. Are you sure of that?—I am sure of it; it was only 12 *s.* 6 *d.*, 12 *s.* 8 *d.*, 13 *s.* 6 *d.*, and 13 *s.* 3 *d.*

2702. Twenty years ago, do you think many families there had a second bed?—They had.

2703. Before Lord George Hill came?—They had all cows and sheep, and were making blankets.

2704. Do you know Paddy M'Kye, the schoolmaster there?—I did know him.

2705. Did you ever hear of his sending a petition to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland?—I do not know whether I did not.

2706. If he said that there were not two beds to a family, was he a man likely to tell the truth?—They had all beds.

2707. Had they two beds to a family?—They had, in the townland that I live in myself; I can prove that my father and two men had more sheep than 36 families have now.

2708. Lord *Naas.*] When was that?—Before Lord George Hill came there were 33 horses in the townland of Meenaduff, and there are only five now.

2709. Do you think the district was better off before Lord George Hill came there than it is now?—I am certain sure of it.

2710. They had more money?—Yes, and more stock.

2711. Do you think they would be better off now if Lord George Hill had never come into it?—I am certain sure of it, for they were all stocked with sheep and young cattle, and now they have nothing, unless they go and tether their cows. I have often seen people have a tether upon one cow.

2712. Do you recollect the time before Lord George Hill came there?—I do.

2713. How old are you?—Thirty-nine.

2714. Do you say the same of the other proprietors; take the case of Mr. Olphert, do you think his estate was better than it is now?—I am sure they were, because Mr. Olphert's tenants lost the mountain as well as us, and they have no more means of keeping sheep and cattle than we have.

2715. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Did Mr. Woodhouse's tenants lose the mountain?—Yes; and the tenants of Mr. Woodhouse have been so much afraid of him, that they went and raised a fence and ditch to impound themselves a little distance from the shore, and they cannot allow a cow to go outside that ditch. I have been in 30 houses on Mr. Woodhouse's property, and I did not see more than three beds in those houses.

2716. Lord *Naas.*] Used you not to take in any grazing cattle on your own mountain before now?—Not in the mountain that I am on.

2717. Still it was the practice, when they had not cattle of their own, to take in cattle on the mountain?—Yes, on the part that Lord George Hill has now, but not on the mountain that I am on; every man of our country had the liberty of taking in cattle.

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2718. No matter whether they lived on the place or not?—The tenants; this was on the topland.

2719. Every man in the country was allowed to drive his cattle on and to pay nothing for it?—Every man on the topland, because this was our arable land; there was no man prevented; we had it for our own use.

2720. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Was it confined to the tenants of toplands?—It belonged to the tenants only, but other men could graze upon it by leave of the tenants.

2721. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] You say that you know this man McKye?—I knew him by eyesight.

2722. Did you know his character?—All that I knew of his character was not too good.

2723. Do you think he would try to get money out of the Lord Lieutenant by false pretences?—I could say something else about that man.

2724. You say positively it is not true that 20 years ago, whole families, sons and daughters grown up, lay together indiscriminately with their parents?—It is not true.

2725. Also you say it is not true that 1 *l.* was the rent of a cow's grass 20 years ago?—It is not true; I can prove it.

2726. Do the people now sleep in that condition that I have read to you?—Yes, I can name the families who do it; I can name a case where the father and mother, and son and daughter lie under one covering.

2727. You recollect the famine years?—Yes.

2728. Supposing that another failure of the potatoes happens this year, are the people better off or worse than they were in 1847 or 1848?—Not half so well off as then.

2729. Are the people in greater distress now?—Yes.

2730. Of course they would be sure to die now?—A vast deal of them died in that year.

2731. You think more would die now?—I am certain that more would die now than died then, because they had money in stock then.

2732. Do you think that in the whole of the district the tenants have 1,500 cattle among them?—I could not say.

2733. How many sheep should you think they have?—I can say that in one townland, Knockastoller, there is only 60 head of sheep now; and three years ago, or four, perhaps, there were about 200.

2734. Lord George Hill always pays good-will and tenant-right when he takes any land from the tenant, does not he?—I do not know.

2735. Did you ever know of Lord George Hill turning out a tenant?—Yes, I have known him throw down a poor man's house, and that was throwing him out, because he took out a license for a spirit shop.

2736. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What was his name?—Paddy Mulligan.

2737. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Was that the only case?—Yes. This man's step-daughter got his land share back again, when she took down the board.

2738. Did Lord George Hill pay him money for his place, or give him another place, or what?—Lord George Hill gave him no part.

2739. He got his place back again?—No; but his step-daughter did.

2740. You know one man who was turned out, and he got his land back again?—Yes, his step-daughter did. I could mention other persons, if I had time to recollect.

2741. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Did I rightly understand you to say that you are by no means the best off in your own townland, and by no means the worst off in your own townland?—Yes, the best off in my own townland.

2742. There are several better off than you, and several not so well?—Yes, I am the best off.

2743. I do not know so well as other gentlemen on the Committee the habits of the people in Ireland; will you describe to me the sort of house you live in; what rooms have you?—Only one room.

2744. Is that divided at all by any screen or anything?—It is not divided; there is a gable through the centre of the house; there is one apartment, and another place called a kitchen.

2745. You say you have only one room?—Yes, that is all.

2746. You have a kitchen and a room?—Yes.

2747. Where

2747. Where do you put your cows at night?—I put them into the byre.

2748. You do not bring them inside what you call your house?—No; they are under the roof with me.

2749. You have a wife, and how many children?—I have a wife and six children.

2750. How many beds have you got?—Three; but they are not beds.

2751. Will you describe exactly what they are?—They are rugs and blankets, and a sort of white cotton sheets.

2752. Have you a tick?—I have.

2753. What is that tick stuffed with that you lie upon?—I lie upon one bed.

2754. What has it got inside it, straw or chaff?—Chaff, because sometimes I have had to take the chaff out of my bed and give it the cows, and then we put straw into it, and in the same way, when we want the straw for the cow we put brackens into the tick.

2755. You are not obliged to lie upon the floor, are you?—No.

2756. Nor your family?—Yes; we have a shakedown on the floor.

2757. Who lie upon the shakedown?—My mother and some of my weans lie upon it.

2758. Where does your father sleep; where is his bed?—He lies in a bed by himself and a growing up child that we have.

2759. What other furniture have you got; have you a table?—If I have it is not my own; it belongs to my father.

2760. What furniture is there in the house belonging to your father, or you, or your children, or any inmate in the house?—There is one old table in it.

2761. What else is there?—There is about better than half a dozen chairs; some broken and some old.

2762. Anything else; is there a dresser in it?—There is a dresser in it, and there is nothing more except two little chests that were made 30 years past.

2763. Have you got utensils, such as pots and pans, for cooking?—Indeed there is no pan in the country scarcely at all.

2764. Have you any plates?—There are plates, but no pans; we have pots.

2765. In which you cook your victuals?—We have nothing to cook, only potatoes and Indian meal.

2766. You do not mean to tell the Committee that you have never tasted anything but potatoes and a little Indian meal since November last up to this time?—Certainly.

2767. Do you never eat your fish which you catch?—Sometimes we get fish from about 40 miles off, and sometimes sprats.

2768. Do you never eat butter, or eggs, or milk?—No.

2769. What do you do with the produce of your cows?—We use it in summer on till about October, and then the cows go dry because we have nothing to give them.

2770. As long as the cows give milk, you use it?—Yes, those that have cows do so.

2771. Is it not customary for cows to go dry in the winter?—No, it is not; I am sure that forrow cows do not go dry in the winter.

2772. When a cow does not get dry in the winter, who takes the milk?—We do not get milk, because we have nothing to give them; I had a cow last winter, and she did not give a quart of milk all the winter.

2773. When they do give milk in the winter, what do the people do with it?—Those that have it use it.

2774. From last November you have not happened to have a cow in milk?—No.

2775. Do you make butter when your cows are in milk?—Yes.

2776. What do you do with the butter?—We sell it at Letterkenny.

2777. You get money for it?—Yes.

2778. What price do you get for it?—We get from 8 *d.* to 7 ½ *d.*, and 6 *d.* Sometimes we got 8 ½ *d.* a lb., and sometimes only 4 *d.* We sell it to make up the rent.

2779. How many pounds of butter will a cow make through the year?—I do not know. I know that in our own country they make very little because we have no grass; it is so hard that if we do not change them from our soil and

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give them an exchange of soil the cow will die with us, and we have no milk; there is a certain disease that attacks them.

2780. Have you any other animals; have you any pigs?—No; we have no pigs.

2781. Mr. *Maguire.*] Have you anything to give the pigs to eat if you had them?—No.

2782. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do you make kelp?—Yes, sometimes.

2783. Did you make any last autumn?—I did make some.

2784. What price did you get?—I got 4 *s.* a cwt.

2785. How many cwt. did you make?—I could not exactly tell that; I believe that it was 2 *l.* I got altogether.

2786. Lord *Naas.*] Where did you sell it?—At a place called Gola Island. When I calculated my time and the company that I had along with me, I found that we had not earned more than 4 *d.* a day.

2787. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Are you in tolerably good health?—Yes.

2788. You could do a good day's work, could not you?—I could.

2789. Could you tell the Committee whether a man living upon nothing but scanty food of Indian meal and potatoes, could do a good day's work if he had been living on it since November?—I could do a good day's work in my own country if I was well fed.

2790. I want to know, from your own knowledge, whether a man who has been living upon scanty food of Indian meal and potatoes for a good many weeks, would be able to do a good day's work; could you, under such circumstances, do a good day's work?—I am healthy; but a horse on straw could not work as well as a horse that was well fed.

2791. Mr. *Maguire.*] You are not so badly off as others?—No.

2792. You do not represent yourself as being one of the extremely destitute? No.

2793. You are better off than many others, are you not?—Yes, certainly.

2794. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] On a former day a witness was asked this question: "Has any land upon which any labour has been expended been taken by Lord George Hill from the tenant without paying to him the usual amount of the tenant-right?" and the answer was, "No, it has not;" was that answer true or not?—That is right; I am sure he does. At Bunbeg, where he built the store, he took the place of a shop and a yard, and he did not pay anything for it; and he built the hotel on Bryan Boyle's land.

2795. Then the person who told me that he had always paid tenant-right did not tell the truth?—Yes.

2796. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was any portion of what you call the top-lands reclaimed?—I will say how they were reclaimed. In summer we used to go and build mud houses, and live there.

2797. Was not there some reclamation, or some improvement on it?—Yes.

2798. Did Lord George Hill take that from the tenants?—He did.

2799. Did he give them any compensation for those lands?—He did for reclaimed land.

2800. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Did he take any cows' grass from them without paying any compensation for it?—I often heard that he did; but I could not tell you without going back to my recollection.

2801. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Was the coat that you have on made in the country?—Yes.

2802. How long have you had it?—For the last five years.

2803. Was it made in your own place?—It was; five years ago. I was obliged to come to London, and I was not able to get a second one; I go to chapel every Sunday in it.

2804. Was it made in your own house; where did you get the wool?—It is home-made with the wool of my own sheep; I had an opportunity of making plenty of coats at that time which I have not now, because I had more than a score of sheep at that time; but I have no more than one sheep in the world now.

2805. Have your children any sheep?—They have none.

2806. Has your father any?—Yes, my father has a few.

2807. How many has he?—I think about six or seven.

2808. Lord *Naas.*] Where does he feed them?—In a place belonging to Mrs. Russell out of Lord George Hill's property.

2809. *Chairman.*]

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2809. *Chairman.*] You stated to the Committee at the beginning of your examination that you had four cows' grass; is that so?—Yes.

2810. You stated that the rent that you used to pay for that was 2 *l.* 12 *s.* 6 *d.*, is that true?—Yes.

2811. And you stated that about three years ago your rent was raised to 5 *l.*, is that true?—Yes; I can show the receipt.

2812. How many cows used you to have?—I used to have eight cows.

2813. And you stated, did you not, that you have only two cows and a calf?—Yes; two cows and a calf and one sheep; I sold three cows last year at half-price to pay my taxes.

2814. Lord *Naas.*] You had three cows more last year than you have now?—Yes.

2815. Where did you feed them?—I was obliged to feed them on the mountain.

2816. You fed three of your cows on the mountain?—No; unless I had to send them to a foreign mountain; I had them on other mountains out of the parish.

2817. If you had three cows how much would you pay for them?—From 4 *s.* 6 *d.* to 5 *s.* a head.

2818. To whom did you pay this money?—He is a man of the name of Gallagher, out of our parish; he lives in another parish.

2819. Sir *William Somerville.*] Have any of the family that live with you, any cattle distinct from yourself?—No.

2820. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] How came you to sell your cows at such a ruinously low price when your father had money?—He would not give me any money.

2821. It is rather a bad policy for a father who has money to let the stock go off the farm at that price?—Yes; but he is a very old man, and any little trifle that he might part with he thinks he might want himself at the end of his days.

2822. Mr. *Maguire.*] He keeps a hard hold of it?—Yes.

Charles Gallagher, Examined through an Interpreter.

C. Gallagher.

2823. Mr. *Maguire.*] WHAT quantity of land have you?—Half a cow's grass.

2824. Who is the landlord?—Lord George Hill.

2825. What is the rent of it?—Eight shillings now; formerly it was 4 *s.*

2826. How long have you been in this place?—For the last seven years.

2827. Where did you live previously?—I lived previously in Dore.

2828. How many have you in family?—Seven.

2829. Is your land able to support them?—It would not support my family more than a quarter of the year.

2830. How do you support them the rest of the time?—On turnips and sea-weed, and dolamaun.

2831. Do you employ yourself as a labourer?—When I can find employment.

2832. What are the wages in your district?—From 6 *d.* to 10 *d.* a day.

2833. Is there any food given with the wages?—Sometimes I get some, and sometimes I do not.

2834. When you get 10 *d.* a day, do you get food with that?—No.

2835. How many meals do you eat in a day?—A kind of two meals.

2836. Do you ever depend upon one meal?—I might say that it is only equal to one meal; but I scatter it over so as to make two out of it.

2837. Do you take milk or butter?—I have no milk.

2838. What is your food composed of?—Potatoes when I have any; and when I have none, turnips and dolamaun.

2839. Do you ever take milk?—No; there was no milk used in my own house for the last seven years.

2840. Have you a bed in your house?—There is a sort of thing with sticks transversely.

2841. Have you a tick?—No.

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2842. Is the bed composed of a sop of straw?—Straw on the sticks that are transversely used for a bed, that is straw over them.

2843. There is no tick; but straw on the top?—Yes.

2844. Do you know anything about the condition of your neighbours?—One person has nine in family, and if anything, he is worse off than myself.

2845. What is the name of that man?—Ferigle Duggan.

2846. He has nine in family, and his condition is worse, if anything, than your own?—Yes.

2847. Are there many beds in the townland?—Only one bed.

2848. Have you chairs or tables in your place?—I have neither chair nor table in my place.

2849. Where do the children lie at night?—They lie beside the fire on a wisp of straw.

2850. Do you all lie together?—All except two little children that lie with their mother.

2851. Have you blankets?—I had no blanket till I got a blanket from the relief.

2852. What covers the children at night?—The children used to lie in the clothes which they wore by day, and the mother used to throw some part of a rug over them in a corner.

2853. Are you employed by the people of Magheragallan as shore bailiff to watch the shore, to protect the sea-weed from the people taking it away for food?—Yes.

2854. For what purpose are you employed by the Magheragallan people?—To prevent other people from taking the sea-weed for the purpose of eating it.

2855. To prevent the people of other districts from taking that sea-weed for food?—Yes.

2856. What do you get for that?—I am getting myself as much sea-weed as would come to a half of cow's grass over and above my own portion of the sea-weed.

2857. Do the people come from any distance for the sea-weed for food?—I do not know the distance; but they come from Dunlewey, a place between six and seven miles off; I think they come from there.

2858. What season of the year do they use the sea-weed?—From February up to March, and sometimes about the middle of March.

2859. What do they use then?—They get Indian meal.

2860. Did they stop eating sea-weed this year at March?—They did not until a fortnight in May.

2861. Does not sea-weed get very hard in March?—It gets hard and is not usable longer than about a fortnight before May.

2862. Do you know that the people have used more of this sea-weed this year than they have any other year?—They have eaten far more than last year; they were coming in scores this year.

2863. What was the cause?—Through hunger.

2864. Did you ever know so much sea-weed consumed as there was this year?—Not within my recollection.

2865. Was there twice as much used this time as there ever was before in your memory?—Yes.

2866. You say that the people of Magheragallan used to send their cows to Cronahollor Mountain?—They did.

2867. Do they send them there now?—They do not; they dare not put them there.

2868. Is there sufficient grazing for the cattle now at Magheragallan?—There is not.

2869. Was the rent raised on that part of the district at the same time?—It was raised.

2870. Is there a piece of mountain left to the people?—None.

2871. Is not there some small piece of mountain left to them now?—There is a small portion allotted to other parts, but not to people living in Magheragallan.

2872. Where do the people live that this piece of mountain is left to?—In Stronacorcragh, and some of them in Magheragallan.

2873. Some

2873. Some of the people of Magheragallan have left to them a small piece of mountain for their cattle?—Yes.

2874. Are they obliged to keep a herd for the purpose of preventing the cattle straying and getting impounded?—They are obliged to keep people herding, because if they trespass they are impounded.

2875. Formerly, when the people had the mountain, was there any fear of their cattle straying and getting impounded?—There were no people then to impound.

2876. Are they fined now in case of trespass?—As soon as they are found trespassing they are fined.

2877. Do you say that the people can prevent the cattle from straying now?—They cannot prevent them from trespassing.

2878. Are the clothes of the people in a bad condition?—They had not a stitch of clothes at all till they got the relief.

2879. That is, they were in rags?—Yes, unless what would save them from being very immodestly exposed.

2880. Have the women enough for the purposes of modesty?—A third part of the women have, but the other two-thirds have not.

2881. Do you say that two-thirds of the women have not sufficient clothes for the purposes of decency?—More than half of them have not sufficient clothes for the purposes of decency.

2882. Have the men good shirts, or any shirts?—They have breasts without sleeves.

2883. Did the men ever borrow those breasts when they were going to the fair?—They used to do so.

2884. Are you unable yourself to go in snowy and frosty weather to chapel for want of clothing?—I am obliged to stop at home.

2885. Did you get what day clothes you have from the relief committee?—My coat and everything I have on I got from the committee.

2886. Do you think the people worse off now than they were six years ago?—They are; I have not seen them so bad off since the famine year as they are this year.

2887. Have they any smaller number of cattle?—They had five then for every one they have at present.

2888. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] How long have you lived in the house in which you now live?—Seven years.

2889. Have you got any stock?—I have no living animal except hens.

2890. How do you manage your half cow's grass, then?—By getting sea manure from the sea side and manuring my land with it.

2891. What do you grow upon that land?—Potatoes and rye.

2892. What was your rent in the beginning when you first took possession seven years ago?—Four shillings at first; but I pay 8 *s.* at present.

2893. When did the rise take place?—I do not recollect; I do not count the number of years since it was advanced, but I have been paying it since it has been advanced.

2894. How many years is it since it was advanced, as near as you can tell?—About four years, I should say.

2895. Have you paid any taxes?—I have.

2896. What?—Eleven shillings and eight-pence.

2897. What were the taxes which you paid?—Sheep tax and police tax.

2898. Were those taxes oppressive to you?—I was obliged to sell the clothing which I had for the children, and the stockings that my wife had made, and I borrowed some of it.

2899. Taking away the mountain was no detriment to you?—It was a loss to me, inasmuch as if I had been able to get any stock, I might have sent them to the mountain, whereas now there is no chance at all for me.

2900. You never had any?—I had stock formerly.

2901. How long ago?—Ten years ago I had four cows.

2902. Mr. *Maguire.*] How many have you in family?—Seven.

2903. How many in family altogether?—Seven children, and myself and my wife.

2904. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Did you get any relief in food from the Relief Committee?—I got meal; and were it not for that, I would not be living.

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2905. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did you get anything to crop your land with?—I got money; and were it not for that, I would not be able to crop my land.

2906. If you had not got food your family would have starved?—It is so.

2907. How did you live last year?—I lived on my labour last year, by working; and this year I was even deprived of that.

2908. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] What was the most you were able to earn in a day by your labour?—Tenpence is the highest wages I can get.

2909. That 10*d.* was without food?—Yes.

2910. How long during the year could you earn that?—Owing to want of employment, some weeks I could get two days, some three days, and some weeks four days' employment.

2911. Mr. *Maguire.*] So far as you know, is there continuous labour in the district at 10*d.* a day?—No; 1*s.* is paid for cutting turf; but except in cutting turf, I should not get that.

2912. How long does the turf cutting last?—It does not last longer than a fortnight.

2913. Unless for turf cutting, or in time of harvest, is the rate of wages ever higher than 10*d.*?—I have not seen higher wages for the last three years than 10*d.* per day, except in cutting turf.

2914. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Did you get a suit of clothes from the relief fund?—Everything I have on.

2915. Mr. *Maguire.*] Had you a suit before you got them?—I had no suit before I got them from the relief fund.

2916. Lord *Naas.*] Where did you get the flannel that you have on?—I got it from the relief fund.

2917. That is the usual flannel they wear, is it not?—It is not the flannel of the district.

2918. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Have you been lately living upon Indian meal and potatoes?—Not on them alone; I am not eating sea-weed now, but barnacles and dillisk, and I have been receiving food from the relief fund.

2919. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] How old are you?—Nearly 50.

James Ferry, called in; and Examined.

James Ferry.

2920. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] WHERE do you live?—At Arduns.

2921. Is that in Gweedore?—Yes.

2922. Whose property is it?—Lord George Hill's.

2923. How long have you been living there?—Six years last year.

2924. Where did you live before you went to Arduns?—Middle Dore.

2925. How many cows' grass had you in Arduns?—Three and a half.

2926. Whom did you pay rent to for that at first?—To Gola Island.

2927. How much did you pay to Gola Island?—Five shillings and tenpence.

2928. How long have you been paying rent for that cows' grass to Lord George Hill?—This is the fourth year I think I have paid.

2929. How much do you pay to Lord George Hill for it?—Seventeen shillings and sixpence.

2930. Have you any cows' grass in Gola?—Half a cow's grass.

2931. How much do you pay for that?—Eight shillings was what I paid for it, but I pay 12*s.* now.

2932. How long have you been paying 12*s.*?—Three years.

2933. Had you any privilege of grazing on any mountain?—Yes, I had.

2934. Was that Lord George Hill's mountain?—Yes.

2935. What is the name of it?—Tor Mountain.

2936. Has that been taken away from you lately?—Yes.

2937. How long ago?—This year they have taken it away.

2938. What cattle had you when the rent was raised?—I had two cows at the time.

2939. How many sheep?—Three.

2940. How many have you now?—Four sheep; I have not a cow to call her my own.

2941. How have you her?—I have her for her milk till November, and after that

that, if I wish to keep her, I am to have her for 4 *l.*; I have the liberty of doing that.

2942. What are you to pay if you do not keep it?—I am keeping her.

2943. You are to pay 4 *l.* in November?—Yes, but it was last May that I had those terms made.

2944. What became of the rest of your stock?—I sold one of them three years ago, and I sold a cow last November to pay the taxes.

2945. Do you know whether any of the people of Dore were obliged to sell their cattle to pay the taxes?—Yes, I do.

2946. Where do they graze their cattle now, since the grazing on Lord George Hill's mountain was stopped?—They that had stock grazed them upon Mrs. Russell's mountain, and they were paying for them; and those that had cattle sold some of them; they were not able to pay what they were paying for the younger cattle.

2947. How many in family have you?—Five children.

2948. And there are yourself and your wife?—Yes.

2949. What sort of food had you to eat during last winter?—As long as I had potatoes of my own I used them.

2950. How long did your stock of potatoes last?—Till Patrick mass, the 17th March.

2951. What have you been living on since your stock of potatoes has been out?—I have been living on the relief fund.

2952. Before the 17th March did you use any sea-weed for food?—I did; I was obliged to use it.

2953. With your potatoes?—Yes; to make them go the longer.

2954. How many meals a day did you have?—Two meals: I had nothing to sell to support me, till I got the relief.

2955. Did you get any clothes from the relief?—Yes, the coat on my back; a pair of shoes and stockings, and flannel drawers.

2956. Have you had any clothes for your children?—Yes.

2957. Have you any bed-clothes?—Yes; I have a blanket.

2958. Had you any before?—None.

2959. What sort of clothing had your wife and children and yourself before the relief came?—The clothing was not good; my wife was not out but one time since this time 12 months, owing to the want of a gown.

2960. How were your children clothed?—With fourpenny cotton cloth, blued with indigo, in a pot by our ownselves.

2961. Were many people in your part of the country obliged to use sea-weed for food during the winter?—There were.

2962. Were they obliged to use more of it this year than any former year, that you remember?—Yes, they were.

2963. Could they have lived if they had not used it; would they have had enough food?—God knows about that; unless God would throw something in their way to support them, they could not live. We should have had nothing if we had not got the relief.

2964. Up to the time that they got the relief, could they have lived without the sea-weed?—No; not without putting the sea-weed with the potatoes to make them last the longer.

2965. Did you get any money to crop your land?—Yes.

2966. How much?—I got 10*s.* to crop my land.

2967. Could you have cropped your land if you had not got the 10*s.*?—I could not.

2968. Did you crop your land with it?—Yes.

2969. What crop did you put in?—Twelve stone of oats.

2970. Have you known many of the people on that townland reduced lately, and obliged to sell their stock?—Yes.

2971. Are there many of them now without stock who had stock before this year?—There are four that had stock before, and have none now.

2972. Do you know what is the cause of that?—Yes, because of their poverty, the paying the big rent, and one thing and another.

2973. Were your taxes heavy?—Yes.

2974. Were many of them obliged to sell their stock to pay the taxes and the rent?—There were two in Middle Dore who were obliged to sell them.

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2975. Are there many of them now who have had their stock much reduced by reason of the taxes and the high rent?—Yes, there was.

2976. How were they off for clothing in general before the relief came?—Very badly off.

2977. Are there many beds in the town?—To the best of my recollection there are only three.

2978. How are they off for clothing?—Very badly; many of them were not fit to go to a place of worship for want of clothing till they got relief.

2979. What is the usual rate of wages there for labouring men?—The rate of wages is from 8 *d.* to 10 *d.*

2980. Is there much employment to be had?—None, but the few men that Lord George Hill employs.

2981. Did you ever apply yourself to get any work?—I did.

2982. To whom did you apply?—To Lord George Hill's land steward.

2983. Did you get it?—No.

2984. When was that?—To the best of my recollection, twelve months last November.

2985. Was there no work for you?—Mr. Robertson promised me work at draining by the Scotchman. I went over to Mr. Robertson's house, and he told me to go to the Scotchman on the mountain, and to tell him to give me work, as he told me he had plenty. I did so, but he gave me no work; he had only five men working, draining the mountains.

2986. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] What is the name of the man that you went to?—I do not know his name.

2987. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] How much could a man earn in a day by perch work?—I never was at perch work, delving bogs; 6 *d.* is the most that I ever saw given.

2988. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Did the Scotchman refuse you work, or did you not agree about wages?—He said he had no work for me.

2989. Mr. *Maguire.*] Had he more men than he wanted?—He had.

2990. What were they getting a day?—They were getting 1 *s.* a day.

2991. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You state that you have three-and-a-half cows' grass?—Yes.

2992. How much do you pay for that altogether?—Seventeen shillings and sixpence.

2993. Is that all the rental that you pay now?—Yes, for that.

2994. What else have you?—Half a cow's grass somewhere else.

2995. What do you pay for that?—Twelve shillings.

2996. Then you only pay 1 *l.* 9 *s.* 6 *d.* altogether?—Yes, to the best of my opinion.

2997. Had you any oats last year?—I had.

2998. How many?—I had to sell it for the taxes; I had fourteen stone of oats and a hundredweight of hay.

2999. Had you any potatoes?—I had 10 measures of potatoes; I kept them for my own use.

3000. At what else were you at work last autumn; did you make any kelp?—I did for a couple of summers.

3001. Did you make any in the summer of last year?—I did not; nor for these two summers.

3002. Why did not you?—Because I tried it and could not make anything of it; I went to Scotland last summer because I could make nothing at the kelp; I had to pay for a boat and leave my own place, and I could make nothing of it.

3003. Mr. *Maguire.*] What are a man's average wages per day at making kelp?—That is according to the price of kelp; according to the weather; I have wrought for two summers and could make nothing; I had only 8 *s.*

3004. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You made more by going to Scotland than by making kelp?—Yes; I had my meat and my wages; I had 1 *s.* a day and meat.

3005. What money did you bring back?—I brought 4 *l.* back from Scotland at the last harvest.

3006. You say you got some clothes from the relief fund?—Yes.

3007. You got shoes and a jacket?—Yes, and shirts.

3008. Had you trowsers and a waistcoat before?—Yes, I had a waistcoat of my own making.

3009. Did your wife get clothes?—She did.

3010. What clothes had she before?—She got the making of a gown.

3011. Had she a petticoat before?—She had a cotton petticoat.

3012. What else had she?—She had some sort of an old drugget gown of her own making.

3013. Had she any shoes and stockings?—She had not.

3014. Was she ashamed to go to mass on Sunday, with the clothes she had on?—She was.

3015. You were obliged to sell your oats to pay the tax?—I was.

3016. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Is the place that you live in at Arduns one of the new cuts?—It is not.

3017. How did you get it?—I got it by marriage.

3018. Your wife was in possession before?—Yes, her father had it these 50 years.

3019. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] With regard to this sheep tax; you know that a great many of the Scotchmen's sheep had been lost on the mountains about this neighbourhood?—Yes; it is so reported.

3020. What do you suppose became of them?—I do not know exactly; some of them strayed, and they say that some of them were killed; I believe a good part of them died on the mountain; they fell into holes, and they died there.

3021. You do not think that any were killed out of spite?—That is what I could not tell, but it is so reported by the gentlemen of the country that they were.

3022. What do you think?—I could not say anything about it.

3023. Mr. *Maguire.*] You had nothing to do with it, and you can only answer for yourself?—That is all.

3024. Did you ever apply at the hotel of Gweedore for work?—I did, three years ago exactly.

3025. Was it said that there was work there for every one?—There was no work there.

3026. Whom did you apply to?—To Mr. Cunningham, the man who keeps the hotel.

3027. Did you get work there at that time?—No. I said I could not come down till I put down my own little crop.

3028. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Have you ever had sheep of your own?—I have had four.

3029. Had you any the year before?—Yes.

3030. Did they use to graze upon the mountain?—Yes.

3031. If you turned four cows on the mountains, did you expect to lose any of them?—Often they were lost; they strayed, and we never saw them.

3032. Did you ever lose any yourself?—I did; they have been lost these couple of years.

3033. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You used to graze upon Tor?—Yes.

3034. How much did you pay for it?—I never paid anything for it; it was always, since I lived, and my father and grandfather before me, that the mountain was always free to all tenants.

3035. That was not included, was it, in the rent for the other cow's grass?—No; the rent was only for the lands we were using.

3036. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] How many years did your father feed his cattle on the mountain?—All the cattle that he ever had he fed upon the mountain.

3037. How many sheep do you suppose he lost in his life?—He might lose what I did not know; but I know that at one time he lost six head in one year out of 18 that he sent to the mountain.

3038. What year was that; do you know?—I do not recollect that.

3039. Was it 10 years ago?—It may be so.

3040. Was it more?—It might be; I could not exactly say.

3041. What do you suppose became of them?—I could not exactly say; we think it was thieves from the country taking them and killing them, and then by the Ross's people, having sheep upon the mountains and other parts grazing, taking them away with their own, and we never could save them.

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3042. Was that the most that your father lost any year, do you suppose; did you ever know of his losing more than six in any year?—No, not in one year; some years he would lose two, and some years three.

3043. Two out of 18?—Yes.

3044. Did he generally keep a flock of 18, or how many did he generally have in his flock?—Sometimes more and sometimes less; sometimes, if he had a flock this year, the next year some would die, and some would stray on the mountain, and he could not get them altogether.

3045. How many sheep used your father generally to have in a year?—Since I mind, he had sometimes 20 and sometimes more.

3046. Taking one year with another, would you say that he generally lost two out of those 20?—Some years two and some years three and some years none.

3047. Might we take three, one year with another, as the average number?—Yes.

3048. Mr. *Maguire.*] Do the people lose many in a hard winter?—Yes. I saw a man that lost 20 head of sheep; and he lost them all but four in a hard winter.

3049. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Was the winter last year particularly hard?—It was middling with us.

3050. What was the winter before last?—I do not know whether it was the winter before last, or the winter before that that was very bad.

3051. *Chairman.*] Do you recollect the winter that the Scotchmen lost their sheep; was that a bad winter?—Yes.

3052. Lord *Naas.*] You recollect the time of the famine in 1848 and 1849, ten years ago?—I do recollect it.

3053. Were you very badly off then?—Yes, I was.

3054. Were you worse off then than you are now?—No; I am worse off now than I was then.

3055. Why?—The reason is, that I had a horse, a cow, some cattle and some sheep, and some money, but I had to sell all that in keeping myself; and now the stock is reduced.

3056. Do you think that the people have less to eat in the country now than they had then?—Yes, they have; before that time they had plenty of potatoes.

3057. I mean at the time that the potatoes were bad?—They were able to live at that time, but they have not stock or money now, and there is no work in the country.

3058. There was some work in the country then, was there not?—Yes, and the men were employed in work then.

3059. Where were they employed?—In the country at that time.

3060. Were they employed on the roads?—Yes, on the roads that year.

3061. You recollect the two years when the potatoes were bad, were the people worse off then or better than they are now?—At that time they got work on the roads, and some of them had money, and some had stock and sold them; now there are no roads making, and no stock, and no money.

3062. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Was there any failure of the potato crop last year?—Yes.

3063. Did you lose any yourself?—I lost close upon a barrel.

3064. Mr. *Maguire.*] How many barrels had you altogether?—I had four and a half.

3065. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Is there much sickness in the country now?—Yes, there is some sickness; fever.

3066. Is there much?—Not very much.

3067. Is there as much as there was in the famine year?—No, there is not.

3068. Not nearly so much?—No; because there was a deal of typhus at the time of the famine.

3069. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Were you and your family sick last winter?—No, thanks be to God, I was not.

3070. Nor your family?—No, none of them.

3071. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] What taxes have you been called upon to pay that you sold your stock for?—Two pounds eighteen shillings, to the best of my recollection; the police tax and the sheep tax.

3072. Not the poor rate?—No poor rate.

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3073. Sir *W. Somerville.*] How many are you in family?—Five children, and myself, and my wife.

3074. Had you suffered great destitution last winter?—Yes.

3075. If it had not been for the relief fund, would you have suffered from absolute want of food?—I could not have lived and kept house, unless I had been assisted from some quarter or other.

3076. Did you apply for admission into the poorhouse at any time when you were suffering distress?—I did not.

3077. Did you ever think of doing it?—No, I would rather go away than do it.

3078. You would not rather starve, would you?—No.

3079. You state that you were not suffering from absolute starvation?—No; I would make my way to some other country; I would go 25 miles to Letterkenny to get some work, or somewhere else.

3080. You were thinking of leaving the country?—I was.

3081. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] All the people in your position have a great dislike of the poorhouse, have not they?—No, there are people in the townland with me, that wanted to go into the poorhouse, but they could not get in.

3082. Mr. *Maguire.*] How do you know that?—I know it by the men themselves, and I can prove it.

3083. What men?—There is one Michael McMonagle.

3084. Sir *W. Somerville.*] Your reason for not going to the poorhouse, was not because you would have been obliged to give up your land, as you would have given up your land to go anywhere else, but you would not go to the poorhouse?—If I had not had this work before me, I would have gone into the poorhouse.

3085. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did that man, Mulligan, say why he was refused admission into the workhouse?—He did; he was obliged to go to the poorhouse; he was not fit to pay rent, and he gave all the grain that grew that year on the ground to Lord George Hill, who took it away with his horses and carts. I saw it myself going along the road, and Lord George Hill, or his bailiff, took and locked his door, and then he was to go and take a peck of meal to carry him to the poorhouse; he went there, and spent two days looking for it, but he could not get the meal. He then went to Mr. Hugh M'Fadden and told him so; and Mr. M'Fadden put his hand in his pocket, and gave him 1 *s.* 6 *d.* The man then went to the poorhouse, and the man there told him that there were 14 in the house over the number, and he could not get in.

3086. When was that?—Four or five years ago.

3087. Sir *W. Somerville.*] At the time that he applied to the poorhouse did he occupy any land?—He left his house and land, and Lord George Hill locked his door before he came.

3088. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Then Lord George Hill took his land away from him, did he?—Yes.

3089. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Did he give up possession?—Lately he did.

3090. Who locked the door?—The bailiffs.

3091. Then he gave up possession of his land and his house?—Yes; Lord George Hill said that he would give him a part of the grain that he took away to till his land if he was fit to do it.

3092. After that he went to the poorhouse, and was refused because it was full?—Yes.

3093. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What become of him?—He came off to Letterkenny with the children, and went begging for three years, and when they got stronger they went to service, and then he went back, and is living in his own house again. When the children came to earn wages in this country they paid up the arrears.

3094. Is he in his own house now?—Yes.

3095. What townland was that?—Middledore.

3096. Mr. *Maguire.*] He was absent for three years begging was he?—Yes, for four years.

3097. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do you know whether he was ever out of possession of the land?—I do not know; only they locked the door.

3098. Who locked the door?—To the best of my opinion I do not know which of the two bailiffs; whether it was Hugh McBride or Arthur Doherty.

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3099. You cannot tell the Committee any reason why the people have such a dislike of the poorhouse?—They think they have bad usage there; and they are obliged to give up their own cabins.

3100. Mr. *Maguire.*] You state that they do not like to give up their cabins?—No.

3101. Sir *W. Somerville.*] Do you know any instance at all, where the family of a man refusing to give up his cabin, has received relief at the poorhouse?—I do not know of any such a case.

3102. You state that a man does not like to give up his cabin, and therefore will not apply for relief; do you know any instance where the wife or family of any person, occupying more than a quarter of an acre of land, received relief at the poorhouse, although the man himself did not give up his cabin and his ground, and go into the poorhouse?—I cannot understand the question.

3103. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Did you ever know a part of a family go into the poorhouse, and the others remain out of it?—I never knew that to my knowledge.

3104. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Do the people think that they are not fed enough in the workhouse?—They do.

3105. Mr. *Maguire.*] It does not happen that the children go into the poorhouse, and the father remains out?—I never heard of it.

3106. Do the people know that some of the family might be taken into the workhouse, and the father might remain out and working?—I did not know of it.

3107. Did you ever think that some of the family might be in the workhouse, and the father and mother remain out?—They would not get the liberty.

3108. That is what you think?—It is the case, so far as I know; they would not get into the poorhouse without the father and mother were with them.

3109. Sir *W. Somerville.*] Although the father obstinately refused to go in, and would rather see his children in want of food, is it your belief that those children would not be taken into the poorhouse if application were made?—They would not go into the poorhouse unless the whole family goes in; they would not go in unless they had the father with them; whether that was the law then, or not, I do not know, but that is the case.

3110. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is that what they believe to be the law?—Yes, that is what they believe, and nothing else.

Jovis, 17° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bagwell.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir John Yarde Buller.	Mr. P. Wykeham Martin.
Mr. Serjeant Deasy.	Lord Naas.
Mr. Dobbs.	Sir William Somerville.
Sir Edmund Hayes.	

JOHN BAGWELL, Esq., in the Chair.

The Rev. *James M'Fadden*, called in: and Examined.

3111. Mr. *Maguire.*] ARE you a curate?—I am curate of the parishes of Raymunterdoney and Tullaghobegly East.

3112. What parishes does that comprise?—It comprises the district known as Cloughaneely.

3113. Does it comprise the parishes of Ray and Tullaghobegly East?—It comprises the entire parish of Raymunterdoney, with that portion of the parish of Tullaghobegly known as Tullaghobegly East.

3114. This is all in the district of Cloughaneely, is it not?—Yes.

3115. I want to ask a question in reference to Thomas M'Bride, one of the witnesses who was examined here on the last day; do you know that that witness was ever considered to be one of the most destitute people in this district?—On the contrary, he was considered to be more comfortable than any of his neighbours, though I should suppose that if he lived in any other country he would be considered very poor, more particularly at the present time, as he has been obliged to part with a considerable portion of his stock.

3116. You would say so notwithstanding that his father was in the possession of money?—I believe his father is very reluctant to part with his money, and the son can exercise no control over him.

3117. You would not represent him as exemplifying the distress of the district?—By no means.

3118. How long have you been curate in this parish?—About four years, since September 1853.

3119. How many families are there in the Roman Catholic congregation of that parish?—About 1,100 families.

3120. Do you reside in the parish?—I do.

3121. Did you reside any time in the townland of Ray, in this parish?—I resided there about the year 1838 for the space of three months.

3122. Are you intimately acquainted with the condition of the people of Ray and Ballyboe?—I am.

3123. Who was the former proprietor of these townlands?—Mr. Copeland.

3124. Have you had daily opportunities of becoming acquainted with the condition of the people of this parish since September 1853?—I have had almost daily opportunities, because the townlands of Ray and Ballyboe are quite adjacent to where I live; they are a quarter of a mile distant from where I reside.

3125. What is the condition of the people in that townland?—I would say that the condition of the people in the townlands of Ray and Ballyboe is the most deplorable that I could possibly imagine any tenantry to exist in.

Rev. *J. M'Fadden.*

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3126. In Ballyboe and Ray how many families are there should you say?—I should say about 90.

3127. Who is the proprietor?—The Reverend Alexander Nixon.

3128. When you knew the people previous to 1838, what were their circumstances?—They were most comfortable country people.

3129. Was that the time that Mr. Copeland was the landlord?—It was.

3130. Had they stock at that time?—They had, and they were considered, as far as I could then understand and since learn, to be much more comfortable than any other tenantry in Cloughaneely.

3131. Were they decently clothed?—Yes, they were.

3132. Had you a knowledge of the condition of those people previous to 1838?—I had.

3133. When Mr. Copeland was the proprietor?—Yes.

3134. You say they were considered to be in a comfortable condition?—They were.

3135. Were they well clothed?—They were in a position to appear in public equal to that of any other country people whom I have since seen.

3136. I think you said they had a considerable number of stock at that time?—They had, and from what I recollect of a few of the houses with which I was intimately acquainted then, I know that the stock has very much diminished.

3137. At that time of which I speak were the people well supplied with bedding?—Such of the houses as I then visited I found were supplied with bedding; I should say a chaff bed, and decent blankets, and home-made quilts.

3138. That is considered comfortable bedding in that district, is it not?—Yes, in any country district.

3139. It is an indication of comfort, and something like prosperity?—Yes.

3140. Had the people at that time mountain commonage?—They had.

3141. What had they beside?—They had a large portion of reclaimed bogland, or cut-away bogland, on which they raised a large crop of oats; each tenant who held a farm of arable had a proportionate share of reclaimed mountain land; and off this reclaimed mountain land he was in a position to raise as great a quantity of oats as he was able to raise on the arable land below.

3142. Was that called cow's grass?—It was called cow's grass.

3143. Was there a change of proprietors?—There was; I believe about the first of the famine years the Rev. Mr. Nixon became proprietor of those townlands, and some others in the district.

3144. Did he continue to the people the right of mountain commonage?—No; the second year after his becoming proprietor he deprived the people of mountain commonage and of about 300 or 400 acres of reclaimed land.

3145. That is what you call top-land, is it not?—Cut away bog, adjoining the arable below, and intervening between it and the mountain above.

3146. Do you know what is the number of acres in the entire townlands, is it 3,580 acres?—It is.

3147. Does that include the Ballyboe mountain?—It does.

3148. How many acres were the tenants deprived of?—About 2,666 acres.

3149. That is, the mountain commonage?—Yes; which includes the reclaimed land of which they were deprived. I should say that they were deprived of a greater proportion than that, because, looking over the book of valuation, I find that the names of a great many persons who have got new cuts are there inserted. I did not insert the new cuts in this calculation.

3150. Were there between 300 and 400 acres of reclaimed land bearing crop taken from them?—Yes, there was, besides the mountain.

3151. Did they receive any equivalent for it?—They received no equivalent whatever; I am quite certain of it. I have heard it a thousand times during the last three years; it is not a matter which has reached me lately, it is a thing I have heard repeatedly over and over again.

3152. If I understand you rightly, it was in what we call the famine year that the people were deprived not only of this mountain pasturage, but also of the reclaimed lands?—If I am rightly informed, it was the second year of the famine; it was about that time.

3153. Was it at a time of very great distress?—Yes, it was.

3154. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Were you there yourself in the famine years?—I was not; I first became connected with the parish in 1853.

3155. Mr.

3155. Mr. *Maguire.*] Had you a knowledge of the people in 1847?—I did not visit the district in 1847.

3156. You know they were deprived of the mountain at that time?—I do.

3157. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You say that you have heard it over and over again, for the space of three years?—Yes.

3158. Is that common report, or have you examined the people on the subject?—I have examined the people of the townlands on the subject; it is from the people that I get my information.

3159. Mr. *Maguire.*] From your inquiries, do you know that the people were deprived of the mountain commonage at that time?—I am quite certain; I remember the time when I myself have seen the cattle of the people grazing upon the mountains, and their oats growing upon the reclaimed portion.

3160. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Were you there in 1847?—No; I was there in 1838, and I saw oats growing where Mr. Nixon's house is now built.

3161. Mr. *Maguire.*] Had the people the possession of those reclaimed lands in 1853, when you returned to that parish?—They had not.

3162. Had they the privilege of sending cattle to the mountain in 1853?—They had not.

3163. Have they had that privilege since then?—They have not; they had it when I first knew them.

3164. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You do not know whether they had any compensation given to them?—I am quite sure that they had not.

3165. Mr. *Maguire.*] How are you sure of it?—Because I examined the receipts for what they paid at the time, and I know what the receipts are at present; I find that the receipts even are greater now than they were then; they are obliged to work duty days, or pay for them.

3166. Mr. *Dobbs.*] How does your examination of the receipts in their hands show that they did not get compensation?—It would be quite impossible that I, residing in the district for the last four years, and making inquiries repeatedly with respect to the taking away this mountain from the people, should not have heard of it if such had been the case; and I recollect distinctly having put the question whether they got compensation, and I was answered by every one of the tenants to whom I put the question that they never got any compensation.

3167. Mr. *Maguire.*] Have you any doubt in your mind that they did not get compensation?—Not the slightest.

3168. Do you know, of your own knowledge, that the stock in the hands of the people has been greatly diminished?—I do.

3169. With regard to this 300 or 400 acres of land which was bearing crop, do you know that the tenants raised the crops from those lands?—Yes, I do.

3170. Take the case of Denis Sweeney, how many stooks of corn had he?—He had 18 score of stooks on the reclaimed bog-land.

3171. That is 360 stooks. What time was this?—That was in the year previous to Mr. Nixon's depriving them of that reclaimed portion; about, I should say, the year 1847 or 1848.

3172. Do you know that these people raised large crops from the land?—I do; I have heard from the people these last three years that the quantity of oats which they were able to raise off the reclaimed portion was equal to what they could raise in the arable below.

3173. Do those people pay taxes?—They do; they pay poor rates, though they are valued under 4 *l.*

3174. You say that they pay poor rates, even though they are valued under 4 *l.*?—Yes.

3175. Have you proof of that?—I have.

3176. Have you the receipts of any of those people in your possession?—I have.

3177. What is the appearance of the people on this townland?—They are very poorly clad; I should say that two-thirds of them are not in a position to appear at a place of public worship on Sunday. I know that from my experience and connexion with the district for the last four years.

3178. In what state is their beds and bedding?—Of the very worst description; it is merely the tattered remnants of blankets and rugs which they had 12 or 13 years ago.

3179. Do you state that from hearsay evidence, or from your own observation?—From my own observation.

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3180. Have you visited this place from time to time for the last four years?—I have.

3181. Have you had ample opportunity of personal observation of the state of things?—I have.

3182. When did you see the houses of those people last?—I saw them after the 1st of May last.

3183. To what do the people ascribe the condition to which you say they are reduced?—The people here ascribe their present wretched condition entirely to the loss of the reclaimed mountain land, the mountain pasturage, and also to the partial failure of the potato crop; for every year since the famine set in, except in the year 1856, there has been a partial failure.

3184. Are the rents upon this townland increased?—They are very slightly increased; but the people have all received notice to quit, or at least the greater portion of the people have received notice to quit this year, unless they pay 10*s.* of advance on the cow's grass. So I have been informed, but I know that they have received notices to quit.

3185. The rent is not increased at the present moment?—Not much.

3186. *Chairman.*] Will you show the Committee one of those notices?—Yes (*handing in the same to the Chairman*).

3187. Mr. *Maguire.*] Are the rents fixed now?—No; I have made inquiry of the people what their rent was, and they told me they could not inform me, as the receipts were not the same any two consecutive years.

3188. Have you receipts to prove that, if necessary?—I have.

3189. Do the people suffer from fines imposed upon them for trespassing by their cattle?—They do.

3190. Will you explain that to the Committee?—There is a portion of bog land that intervenes between the reclaimed mountain and the mountain top. That portion the Rev. Mr. Nixon permits them to graze upon, on condition that they pay 1*s.* per head for the cattle. This is not fenced, and the consequence is that the cattle and sheep frequently pass over a small rivulet that separates this portion from the top-land, and they are driven off by the Rev. Mr. Nixon's bailiffs, and trespass is exacted.

3191. Is that the only boundary?—That is the only boundary, and it is fordable at all seasons.

3192. What proportion does this extent of land bear to that of which the people were deprived?—I should say that it is a very small proportion indeed.

3193. What proportion would you say; is it one-fifth?—I have not made a calculation; but I know a person having only one cow in the townland of Ballyboe, who is obliged to send her a distance of 10 miles to graze, because he could not get grazing upon the mountain, and because he was so harassed with paying fines for trespass.

3194. When the people had the right to the mountain formerly, did they ever incur the risk of their cattle trespassing?—Never; because I have seen a book which was written and drawn up by the valuator who valued the property under Mr. Copeland in 1842, and in this book of valuation it was stated that the top-lands were held in common by the people.

3195. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Who was that valuator?—Mr. Aikin, of Strabane.

3196. Mr. *Maguire.*] Has the stock much decreased since Mr. Nixon became the proprietor?—It has.

3197. Do you know anything as to the gross amount of stock that the people had in the townland of Ray?—I put myself in communication with the people of the district, to ascertain what their former stock was before they lost the mountains, and I found that it has been considerably decreased.

3198. According to your own knowledge, has the stock been reduced, or has it not?—It has in the case of families with which I was particularly acquainted at the time when I first knew them.

3199. At what time did you know them?—In 1838, before Rev. Mr. Nixon became the proprietor.

3200. Had they a large proportion of stock then compared with what they have at present?—They had.

3201. Do you know that of your own knowledge?—I do.

3202. With regard to the state of their night clothing and day clothing, will you describe it to the Committee?—The night clothing consists, generally speaking,

ing, of a little straw covered over with the tattered remnants of the blankets which remained to them after they had been used for the last 12 or 13 years.

3203. Is their day clothing comfortable?—It is very bad.

3204. Should you say that it was not comfortable?—I should say that the clothing worn by the people of Ballyboe and Ray was worse than that of common beggars in other parts of Ireland.

3205. Do they use sea-weed as food?—They do, but they are not in the position of getting it with the same facility as other people in the parish.

3206. When they can get it to have, they use it?—They do.

3207. Will you say from your own knowledge that one-third of the people have no stock whatever at present?—I would say very nearly one-third have no stock whatever.

3208. Do you say that from your own knowledge?—Yes, I do say it from my own observation among the people. There are some persons who have stock which is not their own at all; they have it for the purpose of grazing and making money, and enabling them to raise a better crop off the land by the manure.

3209. I am speaking of their own stock; do you know that a large proportion of the people are without stock at the present moment?—I do.

3210. Do you know that those people had stock before, from your own knowledge?—I do.

3211. Do they use sea-weed as a matter of necessity?—They do; they very seldom taste milk or butter, and they live on two very scanty meals in the day.

3212. Going to the townland of Ray; taking the case of Patrick Harkin, has he a large stock of cattle at the present moment?—He has nothing.

3213. Had he, at one time?—He had; I was informed that he had eight cows and 12 sheep, and a horse.

3214. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Did he tell you so himself?—He did.

3215. Mr. *Maguire.*] Has he any now?—He has none.

3216. Have the people of this townland good bedding or good bed-clothes?—Very bad bedding and very bad bed-clothes.

3217. When did you visit them last?—Since the 1st of May; I had visited them frequently before.

3218. Did you see any furniture in the houses when you visited them?—On the occasion of my visits I frequently had to go into three or four houses before I could get a stool or anything to sit down upon, and I do not think that there is a table, or a chair or a stool in every twelfth house.

3219. Did you see any indications of opulence in them?—I am quite sure, if you knew the harrowing distress they are suffering at present, that a word which would seem to indicate a taunt would not be used in reference to the people, and to speak of great opulence implies a taunt.

3220. Is there the slightest indication of opulence amongst the people?—Not the slightest.

3221. Generally, in all Cloughaneely, would you say that there are indications of opulence among the people?—There are no indications whatever of opulence; there are a few townlands that are more comfortable than the others, such as Errarovey, the proprietor of which is Mr. Stewart, of Ards, and Drimnatinny, the property of Mr. Wybrants Olphert, and Falcarragh, the property of the Rev. C. Stewart.

3222. Do the people of Ray use sea-weed as an article of food?—Yes, with potatoes or Indian meal.

3223. How many meals a day have they?—The majority of them have only something like two scanty meals.

3224. Are notices to quit common upon this townland?—I believe so; they have been served with notices to quit this year.

3225. For what purpose?—I have heard them say that it was for the purpose of obliging them to pay 10 *s.* additional rent for the cow's grass.

3226. Did you hear the people themselves say that?—I did.

3227. Are duty days charged to the people on Mr. Nixon's property?—They are.

3228. What are those duty days?—I heard the people say repeatedly that under the former proprietor they were not obliged to pay duty days, but that they are now obliged to give three days' work in the year, or 2 *s.* 6 *d.* in money in lieu of those days' work.

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3229. Has the landlord the power of selecting those days himself?—I think he has.

3230. Do you know to the contrary?—I do not know; I should think it is optional.

3231. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You have no knowledge of that?—I have never heard it called in question.

3232. Did you ever hear it stated?—I did; I have heard the fact stated.

3233. Mr. *Maguire.*] What did you hear stated?—I heard it stated that he exacts duty days, or if not the work done in labour; he exacts 10 *d.* a day for every day's labour that they do not give.

3234. What is the rate of wages in this district?—Tenpence in summer, and eightpence in winter, without food, is the rate of wages.

3235. Come now to the townland of Tullaghobegly Irish, how many families are in that townland?—In all Tullaghobegly Irish there are 55 families, including a number of small farms up in the mountains.

3236. Who is the proprietor of this townland?—The Rev. Mr. Nixon.

3237. Have the people lost the grazing on the mountain?—They have.

3238. How many acres have they lost?—1,967 acres, and that includes 11 acres of water.

3239. Mr. *Dobbs.*] When did they lose it?—About the same time I should say as the people of Ray and Ballyboe.

3240. When was that?—I should say about 1847 or 1848, after the famine year.

3241. Mr. *Maguire.*] Has the stock of the people been greatly decreased to your own knowledge?—It has.

3242. Give the Committee any case you like of any person whose circumstances you know now, and which you knew before?—Shane Gallagher informed me, that he had five cows and a good horse, and a large flock of sheep, at the time of the losing of the mountains.

3243. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What year was that?—It was after 1847, or about that time.

3244. Mr. *Maguire.*] Would you say that it was from 1846 to 1848?—About that time; it might have been 1849; it was since the famine set in, at all events.

3245. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Was it between 1847 and 1853?—Certainly.

3246. Mr. *Maguire.*] What were you going to say about Shane Gallagher?—He has no four-footed animal now, and he was obliged to sell the materials which he had for a coat in order to meet the landlord's demands.

3247. Do you know anything about the case of Alexander M'Kinnon?—I do. I know that he came to me on the 10th of May this year with an application for relief for some night-clothes, and for some food.

3248. Did you inquire into his case?—I did; and he told me such an extraordinary thing that I could scarcely believe him; he said to me that for want of night-clothes to keep him warm during the winter, he was obliged to lie side by side with a heifer to prevent him from starving with cold.

3249. Was that man in the habit of attending the Roman Catholic chapel?—No, he was a Protestant; and that proves that the poor man told me the truth, because he, being a Protestant, would not have come to me with so shameful a tale were it not that he was telling the truth. I afterwards inquired about him, and I found that it was true that he was obliged, in order to keep life in him, to lie side by side during the winter with a little heifer that belonged to a son of his.

3250. Were you able to establish by inquiries the fact, that that man had had any stock at any time?—He told me that he had two head of cattle and some sheep, and that he fell into a little arrear, and that the Rev. Mr. Nixon deprived him of a part of his land. I met him a few days afterwards returning from the mountains, a distance of about two miles, with a creel of turf upon his back, (he was about 70 years old), and I went to his house, and he showed me how he lay.

3251. How many sheep did he say he had?—He did not mention the number of sheep.

3252. You say that he was so reduced that he was obliged to lie by the side of a heifer at night in order to preserve life in him?—He was.

3253. Does your description of the wearing apparel, and the bed-clothes and bedding of the people of the other townlands apply to the people of this townland?—To the great majority of them.

3254. Are their meals scanty?—Yes.

3255. And is their wearing apparel bad?—Yes.

3256. And their beds and bed-clothes bad?—Yes, with the exception of three or four houses.

3257. Will you describe what their beds generally consist of?—The average description of bed is this: there is a sort of fixture for a bedstead, the bed being in the generality of cases a little straw placed over some sticks, which is covered with something like a coarse description of shirting, and a tattered rug or blanket as over covering.

3258. Do the people here pay poor rates?—They do.

3259. Do they pay any other tax?—One man in that neighbourhood informed me that he was called upon to pay property tax, or income tax, or "war tax" as the people call it.

3260. Have you any of the receipts that were given to these people?—Yes.

3261. Will you show me Shane Gallagher's receipts?—Yes (*handing the same to the honourable Member*).

3262. What is the rent of Shane Gallagher?—£. 2. 1 *s.* 6 *d.* rent, 1 *s.* 3 *d.* rates, and 1 *s.* 6 *d.* bog; making a total of 2 *l.* 4 *s.* 3 *d.*

3263. Will you read the last receipt?—"Received from Shane Gallagher 2 *l.* 1 *s.* 6 *d.*, being one year's rent to November 1857, out of his holding in Old Town, dated this 4th January 1858. Rent, 2 *l.* 1 *s.* 6 *d.*, cost, 2 *s.* 6 *d.*, turf, 1 *s.* 6 *d.*, half-rate, 2 *s.*; total, 2 *l.* 7 *s.* 6 *d.*"

3264. There is 2 *s.* put down for the half-rate?—Yes.

3265. Was that man liable for that?—He was not; he is not valued at 4 *l.*

3266. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What is he valued at?—He pays 2 *l.* 1 *s.* 6 *d.* rent, and that is a good deal over the present valuation.

3267. Mr. *Maguire.*] Would that 2 *s.* fairly represent the half poor rate on that holding?—By no means, because the poor rate in the electoral division in which that receipt is given is only 1 *s.* 4 *d.* in the pound.

3268. Could you make out, under the circumstances, the poor rate on that man's holding to be 4 *s.*?—No.

3269. Could you justify the charge of 2 *s.* as the half of the poor rate?—I I could not.

3270. Sir *William Somerville.*] Has this man, Shane Gallagher, any lease?—There is no lease upon the entire property, that I know of, in the district of Cloughaneely.

3271. Mr. *Maguire.*] Can you show me any other receipts?—Yes (*producing the same*).

3272. Will you read the receipt to the Committee, Nancy Ferry's receipt?—"Received from Nancy Ferry 15 *s.* 11½ *d.*, being one year's rent to November 1857, out of her holding in Ballyboe. Dated this 17th day of December 1857. Bog 1 *s.* 6 *d.*, rate 9 *d.*"

3273. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] What is the valuation?—I do not know the valuation.

3274. Sir *William Somerville.*] With regard to those persons who have paid this poor rate, and who are rated under 4 *l.*, you say, for a certain holding; have they any other holdings in any other part of the same union?—None. I have heard Daniel M'Gee, of Calheme, the largest landholder under Mr. Nixon, say that he was applied to twice for property tax by Mr. Nixon, and that he refused to pay it; that he asked Mr. Nixon what he meant by those rates that he was exacting from him, and which Mr. Nixon had not authority to exact. On one occasion he said, "Do you mean property tax or income tax?" and Mr. Nixon said he did, and that he exacted this rate from all the tenants. This man got two notices to quit because he would not pay the property tax. His rent is 12 *l.*

3275. Mr. *Maguire.*] Have you any other receipts in which the poor rate is charged?—Yes, I have.

3276. Do you know what Dennis Boyle's rent is?—I do.

3277. Will you read the receipts of Dennis Boyle?—"Received from Dennis Boyle, 2 *l.* 1 *s.*, being one year's rent to November 1857, out of his holding in Ray. Dated this 17th December 1857. Half rate, 1 *s.* 6 *d.*; bog, 1 *s.* 6 *d.*" "Re-

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ceived from Dennis Boyle, 2*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*, being one year's rent to November 1856, out of his holding in Ray. Dated this 16th December 1856. Half rate, 1*s.* 9*d.*; bog, 1*s.* 6*d.*" "Received from Dennis Boyle, 1*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*, being one year's rent to November 1854, out of his holding in Ray. Dated this 3d February 1855, 1*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*" There is no poor rate on that receipt.

3278. In neither of those instances is the rent the same one year as it is the other?—It is different every year.

3279. Will you look at those two receipts of Shane M'Fadden, and read them to the Committee?—"Received from Shane M'Fadden, 1*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*, being one year's rent to November 1856, out of his holding in Ballyboe. Dated this 29th November 1856. Half rate, 1*s.* 11*d.*; bog, 1*s.* 6*d.*; total, 1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*"

3280. Take the next?—"Received from Shane M'Fadden, 1*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, being one year's rent to November 1857, out of his holding in Ballyboe. Dated this 16th December 1857. Turf, 1*s.* 6*d.*; half rate, 1*s.* 6*d.*"

3281. On what rent?—£. 1. 10*s.* 6*d.*

3282. What is the half rate?—The half rate is 1*s.* 6*d.*

3283. Sir *William Somerville.*] You say that there is no lease upon this estate; do none of those parties whom you have mentioned hold property in any other part of the union?—They do not.

3284. Mr. *Maguire.*] Now come to the townland of Skroughanreagh; who is the proprietor of that townland?—The Rev. Mr. Nixon.

3285. How many families are there on that townland?—About 30.

3286. Have they lost the mountain grazing?—They have.

3287. Has their rent been raised?—I have been informed, by a man who had been formerly bailiff to Mr. Nixon, that the rent was raised on the cow's grass from 18*s.* to 30*s.*

3288. Mr. *Dobbs.*] In what year was it raised?—Since Mr. Nixon became the proprietor. I could not say exactly; but I believe it was about the beginning of the famine years that he became proprietor.

3289. Has it been raised since 1847?—Yes.

3290. You do not know what year?—I do not.

3291. Mr. *Maguire.*] Has the stock of the tenants on this townland been reduced?—It has.

3292. Can you say that of your own knowledge?—I can say that I have had this information from the people themselves; the names that I have on my book I had from the people themselves.

3293. Have you any information that you wish to give to the Committee on that point?—Peter M'Garvey had three good cows and a horse at that time, and he has now but one cow, which does not belong to him; he has it on credit. James Sharkey, junior, had two cows and a horse, and he has got nothing now.

3294. Can you state generally that the stock of those people has been greatly reduced?—It has.

3295. Can you state whether they possess much or little stock at the present moment?—They possess very little stock at the present moment, and as to the stock of horses in all those townlands that I have spoken of, when Mr. Nixon became the proprietor there were very few even of the cotters who had not horses, but now there is not half the quantity.

3296. Can you say that from your own knowledge?—No, but from information derived from the people in the different townlands.

3297. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do you know the number of horses now, compared with the number of horses when you went there?—I did not take a statistical account at that time; the people seemed to be sinking every day.

3298. The question I asked you was as to the horses now as compared with 1853; can you give the number of horses in 1853?—In a large parish comprising about 1,100 families, I could not ascertain, and my thoughts did not direct themselves in that channel at the time.

3299. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Could you say that there is not any considerable decrease in the number of cows since 1853?—I could not exactly say, but I think that the stock is every year decreasing on Mr. Nixon's property.

3300. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Have you observed a decrease every year?—I have observed a partial decrease every year.

3301. What have been your own observations as to the increase or decrease of the stock?—I cannot exactly say.

3302. Mr. *Maguire.*] Were those people deprived of the reclaimed mountain land?—Some portions of that bog land that was reclaimed in Ray and Ballyboe have been made into new cuts; a great many new cuts have been made in Tullaghobegly Irish, Stroughanreagh, Ray, Ballyboe, and those cuts are let at from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* per acre by the landlord. The people who have gone to live upon those cuts, and who build houses upon them, are very poor and wretched, and they are a perpetual drag on the parish and upon society at large for a distance of 40 miles; they, with 5 *l.* or 6 *l.* capital, go and build a little hut, and they raise a miserable crop of potatoes, with which they feed themselves and families for about three months in the year, and then their families go about begging for the rest of the year.

3303. What is the condition of the beds and bedding of the people of this townland?—It is very bad; some of them have no beds at all.

3304. Are the people charged poor rate?—Yes.

3305. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Are all the cuts taken?—There are some portions not yet taken in that townland.

3306. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] In the whole of the district of Cloughaneely, are there many cuts unlet?—There are, but they are so small that it is the last resort with any person who thinks of sitting down upon one; and they would not have been taken at all by the people were it not that strangers coming from other districts come in to take them, and then the natives of the district, fearing that the strangers would be a perpetual annoyance to them, were partly obliged to take them themselves.

3307. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is there any tax for lime-burning on this townland?—There is.

3308. Will you explain that to the Committee?—The people of this townland have been in the habit of burning lime in kilns which were made by themselves. Mr. Nixon also had a kiln where he burnt lime for his own purposes, and about two years ago he exacted 2*s.* 6*d.* a kiln for every kiln of lime that was burnt in that townland.

3309. Lord *Naas.*] How many kilns are there?—There were four kilns then, but there are only two now, Mr. Nixon's, and another which belongs to the people.

3310. Mr. *Maguire.*] If the people burn lime in their own kiln, is this charge imposed?—It is, just as if they burnt it in the landlord's kiln.

3311. What is the general rule with reference to the new cuts; does the tenant come under rent when he occupies one of them?—He does. It is the general rule now; but, I believe, a few years ago, the tenants were in the habit of getting the cuts in some cases without rent until they would raise a crop from them. But I have known cases where the tenants have had cuts for two or three years, and have been obliged last year to pay up the arrears from the first day of entering.

3312. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Can you state any case of that?—James M'Carry informed me that when he got his cut, he was given to understand that there would be no rent exacted until he raised a crop off it; but last year, when he returned from Scotland, the landlord demanded the rent for those years during which he derived no crop off the land.

3313. *Chairman.*] How many years was that?—I cannot exactly say how many years, but he told me he was obliged to pay.

3314. Did he tell you the amount of rent?—No; the amount of rent is 3*s.* 6*d.* an acre.

3315. Mr. *Maguire.*] How long was he in possession of that land?—I cannot say.

3316. Was it ten years or five years?—I cannot exactly say; but he was a tenant, and was ejected from the property of Mr. Stewart, of Ards.

3317. Come now to the townland of Dunmore; who is the landlord of that townland?—The Earl of Leitrim.

3318. How many families are there in that townland?—There are 70 families in that townland.

3319. What is the total area of acres?—One thousand seven hundred and thirty acres; of those, 1,130 acres are mountain.

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3320. Have the people the right to the mountain?—They were deprived of that right six or seven years ago.

3321. Are they charged for grazing?—Yes; they pay 1*s.* 6*d.* a head for grazing.

3322. Do the tenants on this property pay poor rates, even though their rental is under 4*l.*?—They do; no matter what the rent is, they are obliged to pay the entire poor rates.

3323. Have you any of their receipts?—Yes, I think I have the receipts here.

3324. Are those receipts given on account?—They are receipts on account. The tenants very much complain that they have been called upon to pay in most cases two years' rent for the last three years, and almost in every case 1½ year's rent. The receipts are always given on account, without any particular date specifying the period up to which the rent is paid.

3325. Will you read the number of that receipt (*handing a paper to the Witness*), and give the name of the farmer?—"Number 260; William M'Monigle. Received from William M'Monigle the sum of 2*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* sterling, being 1½ year's rent due to the Earl of Leitrim, out of his holding in the townland of Dunmore, which he holds from me, as tenant from year to year, and ending the day of 185 . Dated this 10th day of December 1857. 2*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* Poor-rate, 3*s.*"

3326. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Who signs the receipt?—Mr. Baker.

3327. In some of those receipts is the word "poor rate" printed?—It is.

3328. What is the valuation?—I cannot exactly say the valuation.

3329. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Is the valuation higher than the rent?—In every case it is lower than the rent. I never heard of a case in which it was higher; but I know I was informed by the collector of the poor rates, in November last, that when he received the poor rates from the agent of the Earl of Leitrim, he, the agent, was giving him 2*l.* over and above the rate that was cessed upon the townland. He had collected 2*l.* over and above the rate that was cessed upon the townland, and he offered those 2*l.* to the collector; but the collector refused to receive them, and the manner in which the collector accounted for that was this, that a number of new cuts had been made, the names of which were not given in the valuation, and he obliged the persons holding the new cuts to pay poor rates, as well as those mentioned in the book of the valuation.

3330. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is it the practice to keep the tenants under notice to quit?—Under perpetual notice to quit.

3331. Do you say that that system conduces to the prosperity of the tenants, or the contrary?—It conduces by no means to their prosperity; it causes a perpetual state of insecurity.

3332. Does it prevent them bettering their condition?—I think they are very much inclined to improve, notwithstanding this and other discouraging causes, on Lord Leitrim's estate.

3333. *Chairman.*] Was this system of giving notices to quit every year pursued by the late Lord Leitrim?—It was not; it was not known till lately.

3334. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is the stock of the people on this townland reduced or the contrary?—It is much reduced.

3335. Is it greatly reduced?—It is very much reduced; I was so informed by people in the locality who are tenants on the townland.

3336. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Since when has it been reduced?—Since about three years ago; since they were obliged to pay a double rent in the same year.

3337. Mr. *Maguire.*] Those people lost the mountain pasturage?—They did.

3338. The loss of their stock has been since then?—It has. I called to see Widow Harken a few days before leaving home, and she informed me that three years ago she had three cows, and she had to pay two years' rent for the last two years, and now she has neither cow nor sheep.

3339. Do you mean two years' rent every year?—I do.

3340. How much was it?—She said her rent was 2*l.* 4*s.*; and she was obliged to pay for the last two years 4*l.* 8*s.*

3341. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] That was for two years' rent?—Yes, arrears.

3342. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did she pay it last year?—Yes.

3343. What is her condition at present?—It is wretched in the extreme; she has five in family, and there is but one miserable bed for the whole five, and they are obliged, boys and girls, mother and all, to sleep together.

3344. Have they proper covering at night?—No, there is but one old rug.

3345. Has she any stock now?—No stock.

3346. Do you wish to give any other case?—Ned Macaffarty informed me that he had three cows and 14 sheep at the time that he was called upon to pay the arrears.

3347. Was his rent raised?—He told me (I did not see the receipt) that his rent then was 1 *l.* 8 *s.* 8 *d.*, and it was raised to 1 *l.* 16 *s.* 3 *d.*

3348. Mr. *Dobbs.*] When was it raised?—Since he lost the mountains; I should say about three years ago, because the rent has been raised upon that estate since I became connected with the parish, a few months more than four years ago.

3349. Mr. *Maguire.*] Will you state what kind of beds the people of this townland generally have?—One-third of the people living in this townland have not got what, in any sense of the word, could be called a bed at all.

3350. What are they composed of?—They are composed of straw.

3351. Is the straw in a tick?—It is not.

3352. Describe what the bed is?—It is a litter of straw that has been used for bedding, perhaps for two months, and covered over with either a rug, or a description of sacking, for a sheet; and they generally lie in the clothes they wear by day. I know from my own experience in the townland of Dunmore that two-thirds of them are not in a position to appear at public worship on Sunday.

3353. Can you state that from your knowledge?—I can state from my own knowledge that the parish priest with whom I live keeps in reserve a large stock of straw every summer, for the purpose of supplying the tenants of the Earl of Leitrim with bedding.

3354. That number are so poor that they cannot go to public worship on Sunday?—They are.

3355. Does that remark also apply to the tenants on the Rev. Mr. Nixon's estate?—It does.

3356. Can you state that from your own personal knowledge?—I can.

3357. When were you amongst the tenantry on the Earl of Leitrim's property?—In the month of May; and I have frequently gone among them for the last four years.

3358. Could any change in their condition have escaped your notice?—I think not, because I do not live at the distance of a quarter of a mile from them.

3359. Would you say that there are any indications of opulence on this estate?—There is every indication of wretchedness.

3360. Come to the townland of Cashel Hill; who is the landlord of that townland?—Mr. Wybrants Olphert.

3361. When did he become the landlord of it?—In 1856.

3362. Was the rent raised upon it?—It was.

3363. That is a small townland, is it not?—It is; there are no more than about nine families upon that townland.

3364. Was the rent raised there?—It was, since 1856.

3365. From what?—The rent then was 28*l.* 5 *s.*; it has been raised to 39*l.*

3366. Has the stock of those people been reduced?—It has been reduced considerably since that time; since 1856.

3367. Is the state of the beds and clothing of those people bad or good?—It is bad; but not so bad as the bedding upon the property of the Earl of Leitrim or the Rev. Mr. Nixon's, in those townlands of which we have spoken.

3368. Can those people come to chapel on Sunday?—The majority cannot.

3369. Why cannot they come to chapel?—I have had occasion to visit there at the hour of 12 o'clock on Sundays, to attend the sick and dying, and at that hour they should have been at public worship; but I found that they were so poorly clothed that I could not even expect them to leave home.

3370. Did they give that as a reason for not attending?—They did.

3371. Is the clothing of the females sufficient for the purposes of decency?—I should say that in any other country in the world the majority of females would be supposed to be indecently dressed if they were dressed as the people of Gweedore and Cloughaneely are.

3372. Why do you say that?—Because their clothing principally consists of rags.

3373. Confine yourself to those nine families on this particular townland, and to those people; do you say that the condition of their clothing is so bad that many of them cannot come to chapel on Sunday?—I do.

3374. Do you also say that the clothing of the females is insufficient for the

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purposes of decency?—I have seen a few that were so badly clothed that I considered it an indecency to wear the clothes that they wore.

3375. Was any part of the person exposed?—The breast was, and their under parts were not sufficiently clothed.

3376. Now with regard to the townland of Lower Baltony, who is the proprietor of it?—Mr. Wybrants Olphert.

3377. When did he become the proprietor?—In 1856.

3378. Was the rent raised there?—It was.

3379. What is the total area of that townland?—Three hundred and ninety-four acres.

3380. Mr. *Dobbs.*] When was the rent raised?—In 1856.

3381. How do you know that it was raised then?—I was in the locality myself, and I know it, because I saw the receipts.

3382. Have you any receipts?—Not any. It was purchased from a resident proprietor in the district, a Mr. Johnston, by Mr. Olphert.

3383. Do you know what is the valuation upon which the poor-rate is paid?—I do not.

3384. Mr. *Maguire.*] What was the former rent?—£. 70. 15 *s.* 9½ *d.*

3385. What is it now?—It is 100 *l.* 16 *s.*

3386. Has the mountain been taken from those people yet?—It has not been taken from them yet; but the people have been given to understand through the bailiff that the mountain will be made into new cuts.

3387. Did the people tell you that themselves?—They did.

3388. Has the stock been reduced?—It has.

3389. Do you know what the number of horses was before 1856?—I do not of my own knowledge.

3390. Do you know that the stock is very much reduced from your own knowledge?—I know of my own knowledge that it has been very much reduced since 1853.

3391. Do you know of your own knowledge any number of families that had cows formerly, and that have none now?—I do.

3392. Do you know that of your own knowledge?—I do. Charles O'Brien, for instance, had a cow last year, and he has none now.

3393. Was there a potato failure last year?—There was; and there has been a considerable failure of the potato crop in those townlands since I became connected with the district; and, except in the year 1856, there has not been half an average crop of potatoes in that townland.

3394. Are the people in a better condition to pay an increased rent than they were before?—By no means.

3395. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] How long have they paid the increased rent?—Since 1856.

3396. Have they paid more than one year's increased rent to your knowledge?—In 1856 there was half a year's rent due to the former proprietor, Mr. Johnston. Mr. Olphert collected that half-year's rent for Mr. Johnston, but for his own half he raised the rent; he collected Mr. Johnston's at the old rate.

3397. How long have they paid the increased rent?—Since 1856 they have paid it; half of 1856, and the whole of 1857.

3398. Is this townland subject to taxation for the sheep-tax?—It is not.

3399. Nor for the police-tax?—Nor for the police-tax.

3400. Was any part of Lord Leitrim's estate subject to either the police-tax or the sheep-tax?—Not in Cloughaneely.

3401. Mr. *Maguire.*] Will you state to the Committee the case of Paddy Coyle, senior?—I visited Paddy Coyle upon his death-bed in Baltony, and I found that he was an old man who formerly was in a comfortable position in life, but when I saw him he had no under bed-clothing whatever, and he was covered with a very wretched old rug.

3402. What was he lying upon?—He was lying upon straw.

3403. Was it a bed, or was it a sop of straw?—It was what we call a sop of straw.

3404. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] How much land had he?—I should say that he had an average portion of land, the same as any other tenant on the townland.

3405. Do you know how much?—I do not.

3406. Mr. *Maguire.*] You know that he did hold land?—Yes, I do.

3407. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Had he any cattle?—He had one old horse, and the only provision that he had in the house was the flesh of a cow that had died from disease, which flesh I saw in a tub.

3408. Had he any animals except this horse?—None.

3409. Mr. *Maguire.*] What was the appearance of the people in this townland?—The appearance of the people was very wretched.

3410. Do they look like well-fed people?—No; starvation is depicted in all their countenances. There are at least 14 or 15 families out of 34 that have no stock.

3411. Lord *Naas.*] What would you say is the value of Patrick Coyle senior's holding; what rent does he pay?—I do not know.

3412. Mr. *Maguire.*] When did you see him last?—In the month of May.

3413. Lord *Naas.*] How much land did he hold?—I cannot say.

3414. Was he in a very destitute state?—He was.

3415. Can you state whether it was three or four, or 10 or 12 acres that he held?—I cannot, but judging from the amount of stock in former years, when he had four head of cows, I believe he has the same portion of land as he had then.

3416. Does James Coyle live with him?—He does not; I think that is his son.

3417. Mr. *Maguire.*] With regard to the townland of Upper Keeldrum, who is the landlord there?—Mr. Wybrants Oldphert.

3418. How many families are there in that townland?—I should say about 50 families.

3419. Have they lost any large portion of the mountain?—They have lost upwards of 3,000 acres of mountain.

3420. Were their rents raised?—They were.

3421. Mr. *Dobbs.*] How many acres were there altogether in that townland?—3,634 acres.

3422. Mr. *Maguire.*] How many acres of mountain were taken from them?—The total acreage of the townland is 3,634 acres, and the mountain 3,053 acres, which would leave in the hands of the tenants 581 acres.

3423. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You stated that they lost 3,000 acres?—Yes, of commonage and mountain top lands.

3424. Mr. *Maguire.*] Were the rents raised?—They were.

3425. When?—A number of small patches of top land were given and added to the arable which the tenant held below; the average extent of those patches was something about an acre, as well as I could calculate from their appearance, and for those patches they have been obliged to pay 5 *s.* of an advanced rent; besides a large number of new cuts have been made, for which 1 *l.* in hand entrance money is exacted by the landlord before the tenant is permitted to put a spade in the ground.

3426. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Was that 1 *l.* fine?—£. 1 fine.

3427. Are all those cuts taken?—They are not all taken.

3428. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is anything done by the landlord to render them fit for the occupation of a human being?—Nothing whatever.

3429. Does he build a house for the tenants?—No, he does not.

3430. What is the condition of the people on this townland?—Very poor.

3431. Do you say that from your own personal observation?—I do; I have been often amongst them and in their houses; I was there in the month of May, and I visited as many as 30 houses at that time.

3432. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Did you begin to visit them about the 1st of May, or had you visited them frequently before?—I visited them very frequently before last month.

3433. Since the 1st of May have you visited them all round, and made up those statistics?—I visited them for the purpose of ascertaining the exact state of things; I might have visited them sooner had I been in the country, but I had not been in the locality up to the 1st of May.

3434. As a matter of fact, it is since the 1st of May that you have been round?—It was not that I doubted the destitution before.

3435. Mr. *Maguire.*] Had you frequently visited them before the 1st of May—Yes, for the last four years.

3436. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Did you make any of those calculations that you have given the Committee before the 1st of May?—None.

3437. Mr. *Maguire.*] What was the state of their bedding and clothing on the 1st of

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1st of May?—The bedding and clothing were very bad; when I went to visit them I took the opportunity to select a time that they could least expect me; I gave no persons to understand in what direction I was going, and therefore I came upon each of them as unexpectedly as possible, lest it should be said that they assumed the appearance of misery, in order to impress me with a sense of pity, and induce me to be the means of obtaining relief for them. I gave them no opportunity to get up a case, but every time I visited their houses I did it in such a way that I might take them unawares, and ascertain what was their real and actual condition.

3438. Did you on the 1st of May, or at any time during the last 12 months, see in this townland anything like good bedding?—I did not; unless in the house of Daniel Gallagher, the collector of poor-rates.

3439. Lord *Naas.*] I see that Daniel Gallagher is put down as occupying 3,053 acres in this townland?—I have seen that in the book, but I do not believe it.

3440. What does it represent?—It represents the mountain held in common by him and the Scotch graziers.

3441. Mr. *Maguire.*] Unless in his house, you did not see a decent bed?—There about four houses in which there are something like decent beds; four houses out of 50.

3442. You would not say that good bedding was the rule on this townland?—On the contrary, no bedding at all was the rule; they had nothing that deserved the name of bedding.

3443. Into how many houses of the 50 on this townland have you been yourself?—Into 30.

3444. Do you mean so late as the 1st of May this year?—I do.

3445. Can you positively state from your own observation that a good bed is the exception, and not the rule, on this townland?—I can.

3446. Have you yourself personally examined as to the state of those beds or bedding?—I went forward and took hold of some rags that lay upon a litter of straw, and my hand was invariably seized by the poor females of the house to prevent me from exposing the wretchedness of their condition to strangers that were with me.

3447. Was it for the purpose of hiding the wealth that was concealed, that the people stayed your hand?—No, it was from a sense of shame to have their misery exposed even to me; I have been called back from the strangers who were with me as we were at the door, by the woman of the house, who whispered into my ear, "We have not shown you the half of our distress."

3448. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Who were the strangers?—They were different clergymen who were with me; I had on one occasion the Reverend Mr. Doherty; and on another occasion I had a Mr. Underwood with me.

3449. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was your inspection so minute that you are now satisfied to state to the Committee that with rare exceptions there was not a decent bed or good bedding upon the whole townland?—Perfectly satisfied.

3450. There can be no mistake on your mind?—None whatever.

3451. You know that from your own personal inspection?—I had frequent opportunites of seeing the people both at home and abroad, and no doubt remained upon my mind as to the condition of their bedding and clothing.

3452. Do you know anything about one James M'Ginley on this townland?—I do.

3453. Where does he live?—He lives in Upper Keeldrum, quite near to the house of Daniel Gallagher.

3454. How many has he in family?—He has seven in family.

3455. What kind of bed or bedding has he?—He has one bed for the entire number; it is like the others, a litter of straw, covered over with a sack, or some old rugs.

3456. Does it deserve the name of a "bed?"—It does not.

3457. You say it is a litter of straw?—It is; the children were naked. There was one little girl, 12 years of age, who was so naked that she applied to me for assistance to enable her to go out to hire; she could not appear out of doors, as she was so naked. Her mother, on the occasion of our visit, was on the strand getting sea-weed for food.

3458. Does Catherine Boyle live there?—She does.

3459. Has

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3459. Has she no bed?—She has no bed whatever in her house; her hut is 12 feet long by 8 feet wide, and the door is only 3 feet high.

3460. Has she any covering at night?—No covering of any sort but the clothes that she wears during the day.

3461. Has she furniture of any kind?—No furniture of any kind whatever; she is obliged to borrow a pot to boil her potatoes in.

3462. Is she a tenant on this estate?—She is.

3463. Does she pay rent?—She pays 2 *l.* 5 *s.* rent. She holds the place for her brother, who is at service with a gentleman in England, with a Mr. Bruce Conolly, of High House, Whittingham.

3464. Do you know Bartley Ferry?—Yes, he has four in family; he has a stool, and a bed made of dry sods, covered over with a rug, and a little box without a lid; that is the only furniture he has.

3465. Does he live near Gallagher?—He does.

3466. Has there been any diminution of stock on that townland?—There has been a diminution of stock on that townland in the last two or three years, since the rise of the rent, and particularly since the losing of the mountain. There are two men in this townland who are very comfortable; one of them is Owen Ferry, the other Charles Gallagher; when they were deprived of the mountain they were obliged to sell six head of cattle each, as they had no grazing for them.

3467. Are there not many new cuts made out of this land, which have been taken from the people?—Yes, new cuts have been made.

3468. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Are the new cuts all set?—They are not.

3469. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is any entrance money demanded for the possession of those cuts?—If a cut is four acres, 1 *l.* is demanded; if they are double, eight acres, 2 *l.* is demanded.

3470. Do you say that nothing is done by the proprietor?—Nothing whatever, although the Government valuation is not more than a penny an acre.

3471. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What do you mean by "the Government valuation"?—Griffiths' valuation.

3472. Mr. *Maguire.*] Do you think that the tenants on this townland can contrive to support themselves without the mountain pasturage?—I have said that I do not know how they can live in future, deprived of the mountain pasturage, because, speaking of the cuts that had been let since the famine year, some of the people have had no stock of their own, but they took in stock to graze on the mountains, and they contrived by this means to have some potatoes; but now, that they cannot do this, I see no hope for them.

3473. Do the people on the townland of Upper Keeldrum use sea-weed as an article of food?—There is not a single house out of the 50, except Daniel Gallagher's, where they do not use it.

3474. Did you see this used in May?—No; this is not the season of the year in which sea-weed is used, though on Mr. Nixon's property I have seen them use it even lately, and when it was not in season.

3475. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] What is the season for sea-weed?—Winter and spring.

3476. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Is this the fishing season?—There is no fishing on that coast; there is no bay, or safe harbour.

3477. Do they eat fish, as fish is carried through the country very often?—I have never seen any fish carried through that district of Keeldrum.

3478. Mr. *Maguire.*] How many families are there in the townland of Ballinacraig?—Twenty-two families.

3479. Who is the landlord?—Mr. Wybrants Olphert is the landlord.

3480. Have they lost the privilege of the mountain?—They have.

3481. Have their rents been raised?—They have.

3482. What is their condition?—They are very poor, and are in the same condition as the people of Upper Keeldrum.

3483. Did you visit the house of William Sheridan?—I did; and I found him with his family, at their first meal, about three o'clock in the day.

3484. What was his meal composed of?—Of potatoes and cockles for himself; he had been labouring on his farm to that hour; one of the peasants who lived in the house with him had gone to the strand in the morning, and had only returned then with some shell-fish; that was his first meal. His wife, who had been for eight months bed-ridden, and could not eat sea-meat, was eating potatoes, and dipping them in salt and water, as a relish.

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3485. Had they bed and bed clothes?—One bed for themselves; the sister-in-law, who lived with them, lay on straw by the fire.

3486. Coming to the townland of Lower Keeldrum, how many families are there, and who is the landlord?—Mr. Wybrants Olphert is the landlord there, and there are about 22 families on it.

3487. Are the people in any distress?—They are very poor, and in great distress in that townland.

3488. Mr. *Dobbs.*] How many acres are there in that towland?—I cannot exactly say.

3489. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was the mountain taken from those people?—It was; the mountain commonage was taken away.

3490. Was the rent raised?—Yes.

3491. Did you visit Philip M'Fadden on this townland?—I did; he has a large family, nine or ten to the best of my recollection; he has one bed for the entire family, and that is a litter of straw and a few rugs. He has no stock of any sort, and I inquired what was the reason why he did not think of entering the workhouse; and he told me that he would make every effort in the world, and would sooner starve at home than die in the poorhouse, as so many relatives and friends of his who had gone to the poorhouse in the famine years had found a grave there; I found that there was a very great prejudice in the minds of all against going to the workhouse.

3492. Was this man a tenant on that estate?—He was.

3493. Do you know how much he occupied?—A third of a cow's grass.

3494. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] How much is a cow's grass?—It varies in almost every townland. In Cloughaneely and Gweedore on the average it is about three acres of statute measure, including laboured and unlaboured land.

3495. Mr. *Maguire.*] How many meals a day did that man M'Fadden have?—Judging from what I could see in the house, and the answers that I received from the neighbours, I do not believe he was able to make out one good meal a day.

3496. Do you know Philip Doogan?—I do.

3497. Has he a large or a small family?—He has about 10; they have but one bed for the entire family; the children are young, and only one is gone to hire.

3498. Do you mean by a bed, a covered bed, or a wisp of straw?—I mean a bedstead that supports any sort of straw or tick of any sort containing chaff.

3499. Was this of that kind?—It was in an old tick, and upon a bedstead.

3500. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] They had bedsteads?—There was generally a bedstead without any ticking or chaff.

3501. Mr. *Maguire.*] Are you speaking particularly of the townland, or of the country generally?—Of the country generally.

3502. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] In this townland are there generally beds on bed steads, or not?—It could not properly be called a bedstead; it was a fixture made of wood taken from the bog.

3503. It is a fixture called a bedstead?—It could not be properly called a bedstead, being made of a few blocks with the ends stuck in the wall and filled up with sods.

3504. Were they better off formerly?—I cannot speak of their condition prior to my being there, but I was told by the people that they were comfortably situated with respect to bed and bedding before.

3505. And bedsteads?—Bed and bedding I have been informed, because I did not consider that it would be a bed if there was no bedstead.

3506. Mr. *Maguire.*] You say that there was but one bed for this entire family, consisting of 11 in number?—Yes, and the man's old mother, who was about 80 years of age, slept in the corner by the fire-side, and she had nothing but a litter of straw.

3507. Where is the straw put during the day, upon which this woman lies at night?—As a general rule, the straw upon which they lie near the fire during the night is placed in a creel to keep it together and to prevent it from scattering, and is again replaced by the fire-side before they go to bed.

3508. What would you say is the general condition of the people on this townland?—Very bad; their clothing is very bad, their bedding is very bad, and their food is very bad; I am quite sure most of them are suffering from hunger.

3509. Take the townland of Ardsbeg, whose land is that?—Mr. Wybrants Olphert's.

3510. How many families are there in this townland?—There are 79 families.

3511. What are the circumstances of the people of this townland?—The people who live in the toplands are very poor, and in great destitution; very few of them have any stock; a number of them live on the new cuts, and they live in mud houses, the side walls of which are formed of turf banks.

3512. Has the mountain, or any portion of it, been taken from those people?—Yes, the commonage has been taken from them.

3513. Is there entrance money charged for new cuts taken out of this land?—Entrance money is charged. I visited Hugh Boyle, who lives in one of those mud huts scooped out of a turf bank, and I asked him what his rent was. His cut struck me as one that was particularly bad, and he told me he paid the landlord 1 *l.* entrance money for it, and that he was obliged to pay 1 *l.* of rent. I asked him to show me his receipt, and he showed me a document in the landlord's own handwriting, which was an instruction to the bailiff to give Boyle his cut, on condition that he was to pay 1 *l.* 10 *s.* yearly rent; and on my reading him that statement, that he was expected to pay 1 *l.* 10 *s.*, he exclaimed he never could do it, and he had told the landlord he would never pay more than 1 *l.*, and the landlord had said to him, "A high rent is the best way to make you work."

3514. Was this man in good circumstances?—He was very poor; his wife was sitting in a corner upon sods, and the idea that occurred to me was, that she was so nakedly dressed that she was afraid to rise to expose her person; she did not rise.

3515. Is it not the custom of the Irish peasantry to rise upon the entrance of a clergyman?—It is the custom of Irish peasants to rise at the entrance of any stranger.

3516. More particularly a clergyman?—Yes.

3517. Do you know a man named William M'Gonagle?—Yes, I do. He got a new cut, and he paid 1 *l.* 5 *s.* entrance money for it.

3518. What is the condition of the people on that townland generally?—Those who live in the mountain portion are very poor.

3519. Have you gone amongst them lately?—I have.

3520. When were you last there?—As well as I recollect, it was on the 3d of May that I visited this townland. One Sunday evening after service I left chapel, not telling any person where I was going. I have not visited any house for the purpose of ascertaining really the distress, of that I was certain before. I should say that this M'Gonagle had got a mountain cut, and paid 1 *l.* 5 *s.* for it.

3521. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] When did he take this new cut?—Last year.

3522. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was that 1 *l.* 5 *s.* entrance money?—It was. I heard it from the man himself; he stated it to me. I may mention that William M'Gonagle holds land independently of this new cut, whereas many have no land but those new cuts, which are about three or four acres in extent, and valued at most at 2 *d.* per acre, according to Griffith's valuation, whereas the tenants are obliged to pay as rent the first year more than would buy out the fee-simple of their cut.

3523. Coming next to the townland of Derryconner, who is the landlord?—Mr. Wybrants Olphert.

3524. How many families are there in that townland?—Thirty-two.

3525. What is the total area?—One thousand two hundred and twenty-four acres.

3526. Has any portion of this land been taken away from the people?—One portion of it has been divided into new cuts.

3527. Mr. *Dobbs.*] How much?—Mr. Olphert holds in fee, besides the new cuts, 780 acres.

3528. Mr. *Maguire.*] How many acres have been taken away?—Seven hundred and eighty acres of the commonage have been taken.

3529. Are the people comfortably circumstanced?—On the contrary, they are very poor; just in the same position as the others I have described.

3530. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] When did Mr. Olphert take the 780 acres?—I do not think he deprived them until last year of the commonage of that mountain.

3531. Last year he took 780 acres into his own hands?—Yes.

3532. Mr. *Maguire.*] Has he made a large number of new cuts?—A very large number.

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3533. Did you see them marked out yourself?—I did; they are obliged to pay 1 *l.* entrance money in that district of Derryconner, and the district adjoining. There are upwards of 50 new cuts in this neighbourhood; a great many of them are not taken yet.

3534. You say that the people are poor?—They are very poor and very badly off for bedding and food.

3535. Do they possess many implements of husbandry?—No, there is not even a wooden plough in the whole townland.

3536. What do they use to cultivate the land with?—It is all spare husbandry; it is so full of rocks that they could not use a plough.

3537. What kind of beds have they?—They are very bad.

3538. What is the condition of their day clothing?—It is very bad; in the mountain portion of the new cuts it is extremely bad; a few days before I left home I was called upon to attend sick persons in that townland, and I visited the house of Dennis O'Brien on that occasion; his family consisted of ten, and there were five lying upon the cold, damp earth, with nothing to save them from the wet bog below but a little litter of straw; there were five of them lying in the measles with no provisions of any sort in the house; and there was but one sort of bedstead, which was composed of a fixture of bog fir in a corner, where the father and mother lay; and upon that bedstead a child was lying.

3539. Was it what is called a new cut?—Yes, it was.

3540. Had he any other land?—He had no other land; he held some portion of arable land below in the famine year, but he was obliged to leave it.

3541. Would you say that the beds and the clothing of the people of this townland were generally bad?—I would say so.

3542. Now, with regard to the townland of Magheraroarty, there are 37 families in that townland, are there not?—There are.

3543. Has the rent been raised there?—It has.

3544. Has the mountain grazing been taken away from them?—It has; the rent has been raised since 1856; the total rent before that time was 72 *l.*, and it is now 80 *l.*

3545. Did that include mountain commonage?—Yes; about 12 years ago Mr. Olphert purposed to deprive the tenantry of the mountain; they formerly held the mountain and the land below under lease; the lease had expired and the landlord wished to take the mountains into his own hand; the people consented to pay 6 *l.* advanced rent for the mountain, and he consented to leave it with them, and the mountain has been held by the people since; but in the year 1856, though they have been deprived of the mountain, the 6 *l.* rent has been still exacted.

3546. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Do they make kelp in this townland that you have been speaking of?—They do make more kelp in that townland than in any other district in the parish.

3547. Do you know what money that produced last year?—I do not.

3548. Mr. *Maguire.*] Who is the proprietor of the townland of Meenlara?—Mr. Wybrants Olphert.

3549. Was their rent raised?—It was, about six years ago, from 10 *l.* 16 *s.* to 26 *l.* 2 *s.*

3550. What is the condition of the people on that townland?—Very poor. They formerly held that mountain as cottiers to the inhabitants of the Island of Innisbofin. Very few of them have more than two cows, and some of them have none.

3551. In what condition is their bedding; is it very good?—It is not, it is very bad; it is very similar to the bedding in Ardsbeg and Keeldrum, and other townlands that I have been speaking of before.

3552. Have you anything that you wish to say to the Committee with regard to that townland?—I wished to state to the Committee that in that townland a number of new cuts have been made, all of them of the worst description of mountain bog land that I ever saw. A tenant of the name of Hugh M'Cafferty paid to the landlord 5 *l.* of entrance fees and 1 *l.* rent in hand before he was permitted to put a spade in the land. He has built a mud hut, and I saw the produce of the first year's crop, and I would consider that it would not be worth more than 5 *s.* He further told me, on leaving home, that the understanding between him and his landlord was that he was to have that holding for 1 *l.* yearly rent; but the last year when he proffered 1 *l.* to the landlord, the landlord

lord kept the 1 *l.*, and would not give him a receipt till he would pay 10*s.* more.

3553. Do you know anything of the Island of Tory?—I do; it is Mr. Woodhouse's property.

3554. How many families are there?—About 84.

3555. Has their rent been raised?—Their rent has been raised from 150*l.* to 217 *l.*

3556. Is the produce of that island sufficient for the support of the people living upon it?—It is not; the produce of that island is not more than sufficient to feed them for three months in the year.

3557. What is their principal resource?—Their principal resource is making kelp. This year the distress has been greater than in any year since I have been connected with the island, since the last four years.

3558. Is their condition different now from what it has been within your knowledge?—It is; they have also suffered very much this spring by a great storm that occurred lately, and which swept over the entire island.

3559. Is the kelp market this year likely to be a remunerative one?—It is not, because the kelp merchants of Glasgow have been discouraged from visiting the district.

3560. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] How do you know that?—From personal communication with them. Last year Mr. Patterson, one of the largest chemists in Glasgow, purchased a large quantity of kelp on the island, and he had it stored in the house of one of the tenants, named James Doohan. The landlord purposed raising the rents on the island; the rents were paid up to the November previous, and the tenants were in the habit of paying the rents annually at November; but the landlord, one morning in June, I think, as well as I recollect, had a distraining notice posted up on the house where Mr. Patterson's kelp was stored, exacting from the person in occupation of that house half a year's rent which was due to Mr. Woodhouse from the whole island, and not the half year's rent which the people were in the habit of paying, but the half year's rent increased by one-third.

3561. Mr. *Dobbs.*] That was in June 1857, was it?—It was in June or July last.

3562. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Was the rent due?—The old rent was due up to May. He did not distrain for the old rent, but for the new rent increased by one-third; and the consequence of this was, that the Scotch merchant, who had a vessel chartered to come round and take away the kelp, was put to very great inconvenience and disappointment.

3563. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do you mean to say that there was a certain sum of money due for rent, and that the landlord distrained for a larger sum than was due?—I do say that. I say that he distrained the property of the Scotch merchant in the house of one of the tenants for the rent of the whole island, though they had each separate tenancies, and that the distraining order was for more than was due.

3564. Did the Scotch merchant suffer by this?—No; sooner than put the Scotch merchant to any inconvenience, the people paid the rent; but the consequence is that no Scotch merchants have visited that country this year in consequence of that ill-treatment which one of their order received.

3565. Mr. *Maguire.*] You think that kelp is not likely to find so remunerative a market this year as formerly?—I think not, because I was in communication with Mr. Patterson himself, and other merchants, and they said they did not understand the *modus agendi* of Irish landlords in interfering with property that did not belong to them.

3566. Sir *William Somerville.*] I do not quite understand about the distraint for the rent of the whole island; can you explain that?—James Doohan, in whose house the whole of the kelp was stored, had a distraining notice served upon his house by Mr. Woodhouse's agent, Daniel Gallagher, not for his own rent, but for the half-year's rent that was due by the whole of the island, and not for the half-year's rent that was due and formerly paid, but for the half-year's rent increased by one-third. Of course the Scotchman could not interfere with the distraining order, and the people, sooner than put this Scotch gentleman to the inconvenience of having his kelp auctioned in 14 days, consented to pay the rent and the advance.

3567. The distraining notice was served upon James Doohan for the whole island?—Yes.

3568. Lord *Naas.*] How was he responsible for the rent of the whole island?

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—He was not responsible for the rent of the whole island; it was a most illegal proceeding on the part of the landlord, although he was a lawyer and a magistrate of the county, and the Scotchman said that he did not understand Irish lawyers.

3569. Sir *William Somerville.*] Mr. Woodhouse you say served a distraining notice upon one man for another's rent?—He did for half-year's rent of the entire island, and that increased by one-third.

3570. Lord *Naas.*] Did this Doohan pay the rent?—He paid his own rent afterwards.

3571. Did he pay the rent of the whole island?—He did not, but the people consented to pay the rent sooner than put the Scotch gentleman to the inconvenience of losing the kelp; they were afraid that no merchants would ever visit the island in future to buy kelp; that kelp was retained for 14 days.

3572. Mr. *Maguire.*] In the summer of 1855 was there great distress in Cloughaneely?—There was great distress in Cloughaneely.

3573. Was there relief given to them?—The parish priest gave relief to 550 families in that year.

3574. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Was not the land on that Tory Island at that time held on Rundale?—I am positive it was not.

3575. You state also positively, that the distress was not only for the rent then due, but for a further sum not due?—I do say so. I could produce a letter from Mr. Woodhouse himself to prove that that distraining notice was illegal.

3576. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Was there any previous agreement between the landlord and the tenants for this one-third increase of rent?—There are two or three comfortable men in the island who consented to Mr. Woodhouse to pay this advanced rent, but the great bulk of the people were altogether opposed, and they never consented to it; and there was no agreement except with two or three.

3577. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was the existence of the distress in 1855 denied?—It was by the landlord, by Mr. Olphert, to whom the parish priest applied for relief, notwithstanding that we had to save from the jaws of death and to keep alive upwards of 200 families, all Mr. Olphert's tenants.

3578. Did Mr. Olphert deny that this distress existed upon his property?—He did.

3579. In spite of that, you say that you saved something like 200 families from extreme destitution?—Yes.

3580. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Where did they live?—On Mr. Olphert's property; they are scattered over the whole parish.

3581. Have you returns of those that were relieved?—I have.

3582. Mr. *Maguire.*] Could you produce them if necessary?—I could.

3583. Was that in 1855?—Yes.

3584. Have you that list ready to produce?—I can produce it to-morrow.

3585. Were there many noble subscriptions?—None whatever. We applied to the Rev. Mr. Nixon for his co-operation, and he said he would mention it to the other landlords of the district, and if they would co-operate, he would do so. On the same day we spoke to Mr. Olphert, and Mr. Olphert said that there was no distress existing in that district.

3586. When were the rents raised upon Mr. Olphert's property?—They were raised in 1856 and 1857.

3587. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] That is over the whole property?—Not over the whole property. I have mentioned in a former answer that in some of the townlands of Mr. Olphert's property the people were comfortable enough for country people.

3588. Mr. *Maguire.*] The rents were not raised this year?—Not this year.

3589. Were they last year or the year before?—Yes.

3590. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] In what districts are they raised?—In Keeldrum, Ardsbeg, Magheraroarty, Derryconner, Meenlara, Cashel Hill, and Baltoney they were raised; in some of those places they had only been partially raised on the mountain cuts.

3591. Mr. *Maguire.*] If any person stated that the people were better off this year than any other year, would you say that that was a true description of the condition of the people?—I would not; I would say that it was a description given by a person who knew nothing of the circumstances of the people.

3592. You having an intimate knowledge of the people from daily association with

with them say that they were worse off at the beginning of this year than the year before?—Yes, except the year 1855.

3593. That is the year when there was the sum of 1,500 *l.* raised by you and other clergymen for the purposes of relief?—Yes.

3594. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Were they worse off in 1855 than they were last winter?—I think that there are more people suffering distress this year; I conceive the amount of distress to be even greater than in 1855.

3595. Mr. *Maguire.*] The existence of distress in 1855 was generally denied?—It was denied, just as the distress in Ireland generally in the famine year was denied, till half the people were starved.

3596. In fact, you could get no co-operation from the proprietors?—Just so.

3597. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] In 1855, how much money was given away in Cloughaneely?—I have not my list here, but there was not such a quantity of meal distributed in Cloughaneely as in Gweedore.

3598. Where was it purchased?—In Sligo and Dunfanaghy.

3599. Do you know how much was purchased in the one place and in the other?—I have the means of telling how much was purchased in Dunfanaghy; I have a list here.

3600. In round numbers, how much was purchased in Dunfanaghy, and how much in Sligo?—I have not the means of knowing how much was purchased for the entire district, but I know how much my parish priest was responsible for in Dunfanaghy; 337 *l.* 11 *s.* 6 *d.* was purchased in Dunfanaghy.

3601. Mr. *Maguire.*] Can you tell the Committee what that is (*handing a specimen of sea-weed to the Witness*)?—It is a very bad description of sea-weed.

3602. Is that used by the people of the district for food to any great extent?—It is.

3603. Lord *Naas.*] Did you ever see them eat that sort of sea-weed (*pointing to another specimen*)?—I did; that is considered a better sort; I have also seen this year the stones along the sea-shore turned up in order to get at the roots of the dolamaun sticking to the stones.

3604. Mr. *Maguire.*] Do you know that large numbers of people have been compelled to live upon the worst description of sea-weed?—I do. I have been informed by the people that they have been obliged to have recourse to the "*slat marra*"; it is a description of sea-weed that is principally used for the making of kelp; it grows long like a stick, and the translation of the word is "sea rod."

3605. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Have you ever known them eat it?—I was told by the people themselves that they did eat it.

3606. Did any person tell you that he himself had eaten it?—Yes; people in Ardsbeg told me so.

3607. Mr. *Maguire.*] Have you relieved a considerable number of people in Cloughaneely this year?—Yes; I should say 600 families.

3608. Have you exerted your influence to discountenance crime and inculcate order and morality amongst your people?—On every occasion in which I have had intercourse with the people I have always insisted upon the great necessity of observing the law. I have always explained to them the great evil there was to themselves and society in being engaged in any conduct that would draw down disgrace and ruin upon themselves.

3609. Do you know that the people of this parish have from time to time lost a number of their sheep upon the mountain?—I do.

3610. And have they been lost by the severity of the winter?—I do say so.

3611. Could you give a case in point?—Yes. There was a man named Gallagher from a place called the Prochlis Mountain district, who said he lost 12 sheep within the last 12 months; and I know him to be an honest industrious man, and I believe him; he is living in the immediate vicinity of where the Scotchmen graze their sheep.

3612. Do you know that it is a common source of loss to the people?—I know that in the year 1855, people who lived in the neighbouring lands, and had a large number of sheep upon the mountains adjoining where the Scotch sheep were grazing, lost more than half of them.

3613. Before the Scotch sheep were introduced did they formerly complain of losing a number of sheep upon the mountains?—It is quite a common thing; very few who send sheep to the mountain ever have the same number return to them.

3614. Do you think that the people of your parish had anything to do with

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the destruction of the Scotch sheep?—I do not think they had, and for the best of reasons, that they have not been called upon to pay the sheep tax.

3615. It is said that the fact of there being few people in the workhouse is a proof that the people are not badly off; could you give a reason why the people do not enter the workhouse?—The great reason that they have always assigned to me why they did not enter the workhouse is this, that from the recollection of what occurred there in the famine years they were inspired with such a horror of the workhouse, which had been the grave, as they said, of so many of their relatives, that they would sooner die outside, surrounded by their friends and being consoled with the last rites of religion, in the presence of their friends, than go into the workhouse and be thrown into a pit as their relatives were who died there formerly.

3616. Would you say that though there were only 10 people in the workhouse, still there might be great destitution outside?—I would say that there might be very great destitution; I have known persons to have been fasting 48 hours that would not enter the workhouse, and I have known a person at Cross Roads, a nailer, fasting 48 hours this summer, who would not go into the workhouse; he had nails enough made, but he could not get them sold; there was no demand for them.

3617. This feeling is common among all classes, is it not?—It is.

3618. Have you any information to give to the Committee about Bell M'Bride?—I had known Bell M'Bride since I came to that parish; I know that she was always poor; I know that we scarcely ever passed her house, and we passed it generally every week, that we did not give her some relief; I know that the parish priest gave her relief not more than six days before she died.

3619. Did this woman die of destitution?—Some, persons who were the best judges, said so.

3620. Was she on your relief list?—She was.

3621. Lord *Naas.*] You state that Mr. Nixon took away 300 acres of reclaimed land?—Yes; land that had been reclaimed by his tenants.

3622. Did he turn the people off the land that they were living upon?—No; because there were none of them depending upon that solely; each person who held a portion of arable below, had a proportionate share of bog land above; but having deprived them of the reclaimed land above, it did not follow that he deprived them of the old land below.

3623. Did he turn them out of the land that they were living upon?—If you mean the land upon which the houses were built, he did not; but if you mean that he deprived them of the land in their possession upon which they raised their mountain crops, he did.

3624. In taking this 300 acres, did he take a slice out of every man's holding?—It was altogether; he cut it all off, and deprived them all of it.

3625. He drew a line, did he, and cut off a portion of each holding?—He drew a line and separated the whole of the reclaimed bog from the old land, and took it to himself; he built a house for himself upon a portion of it.

3626. What did he do with the land after he took it away?—He built a house for himself upon it, and has a farm there, and he has made a portion of it into new cuts.

3627. He took the land away to make a house for himself, and a farm?—Yes.

3628. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] You say that a great many acres have been taken by the whole of the landlords from their tenants, and formed into new cuts?—Yes.

3629. Many of those cuts are unlet, are they not?—Yes.

3630. Therefore the supply of land is somewhat greater than the demand?—That does not follow; considering those new cuts, and taking their size and their quality into account, the quantity of land in all the cuts is great, and its quality bad.

3631. I want to ask, after that, how it is that if those cuts have been unlet, the landlords have been able almost to double their rents upon the other cuts?—I do not understand the question.

3632. All the other witnesses, as well as yourself, have told the Committee that those rents have been nearly doubled, and yet that has been done in the face of much of the land being unlet?—That is not true so much with respect to Cloughaneely as to Gweedore. I did not make the assertion that in all the townlands the rent had been doubled. The only way that I have of accounting for it is, that there is no person who takes a new cut as long as he can hold out without taking

taking it. He sees another person coming in from another parish, who will be sure to be a perpetual annoyance to him, and he would sooner outbid and give more for the land, though it was not worth it, than have another person coming in to interfere with him.

3633. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You stated to Mr. Martin just now, that the rents were not doubled on all the townlands?—I did.

3634. Will you explain how, in your appeal which you have signed, you stated that they were not only doubled, but trebled and quadrupled?—That happened in very many cases.

3635. You say generally?—I say generally.

3636. Now you say that they are not doubled?—I do say so; I mean with respect to some of the townlands the rents have not been doubled; but taking into account the reclaimed mountain land that they lost, it is more than equivalent to doubling and trebling the rent.

3637. You stated that Thomas M'Bride, who was examined as a witness on the last day that this Committee sat, was not considered one of the poorest description of people?—Yes, I did.

3638. Does he live in your parish?—He does not.

3639. What do you know about him?—I have been frequently to that parish, and I have frequently met him there.

3640. How do you account for it that he told the Committee himself that there were some worse, and a great many better off than he was?—He said that there were a great many better off throughout the entire parish.

3641. He was speaking to the same district in which he was living?—I should think he did not refer to the immediate townland or village in which he lived.

3642. He was on the relief list, was he not?—I am not quite sure of that.

3643. Had you not the distributing of the relief in that parish?—I had not.

3644. With regard to Mr. Nixon's poor rate, are you aware that Mr. Nixon bought his property from Mr. Copeland?—Yes, I have been told that he did.

3645. Are you aware that Mr. Copeland entered into an agreement with his tenants before he sold the property, that they were to pay the poor rates in addition to the rent?—I never heard that.

3646. If that was true, and if Mr. Nixon took not the whole of the rate, but half of it, would he be acting illegally?—I think he would; Mr. Copeland had no right to enter into such an arrangement as that, and to violate the law.

3647. You think it was not lawful for Mr. Copeland to enter into any arrangements with his tenants as to what they were to pay?—In the first place, I do not believe it.

3648. Mr. *Maguire.*] Why do not you believe it?—Because I have heard of a great many arrangements which Mr. Copeland is said to have entered into with Mr. Nixon, which were denied altogether; Mr. Copeland himself denied them when he came to the country afterwards.

3649. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] There was a case mentioned by one of the witnesses about the sandhills that were taken away by Mr. Nixon?—Yes, I am aware of it.

3650. Do you know the reason why Mr. Nixon at that time deprived the people of that portion of the common called Sandhills?—No other than that he did it to make money of it.

3651. You are not aware that the sand was spreading in such a way that he wished to take some steps to stop it?—I never heard of any such steps having been taken.

3652. Lord *Naas.*] Did he ever take any steps to stop the spreading of the sand?—No, so far as I understand; it may have been that he had taken some steps, but the spreading of the sand is not arrested.

3653. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Are you aware what the rent of that sand district was before he took it?—I am not aware of it; it is not connected with the district in which I live.

3654. You gave evidence about it, did you not?—I did not about that district; the district which you speak of and the district which I gave evidence about, are at least 12 miles distant from each other.

3655. Does Mr. Charles Stewart live in that district?—Rev. Charles Stewart does not.

3656. Is his property poor?—It is.

3657. Did you distribute any relief to his tenants?—We did.

3658. Are you aware that his tenants were not rated, were not deprived

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of the mountain, and were not subject to taxation?—I am; I have assigned ample cause why they should get relief; there had been a failure of the potato crop every year throughout the district.

3659. His tenants, who are equally destitute with a great many in the district you have described, were not subject to any of those causes to which destitution is ascribed in the other districts?—They were indirectly subject to the same influences.

3660. In what way?—In this way, that many of the tenants of Mr. Steuart had cattle grazing upon those mountains where the Scotch and English graziers have their sheep grazing now.

3661. They paid for that?—They paid a very trifling sum.

3662. You said about those new cuts, that a great many of them were not taken, and a great many were taken?—Yes.

3663. You say that the reason for their being taken readily was the fear of strangers coming from some other parishes to take them?—Yes.

3664. How do you account for it that in a country of such dreadful destitution, strangers should come from other parishes to take those cuts?—Upon this principle, that land in that part of Donegal is the great necessary of life; the men have no means whatever of earning a livelihood and keeping themselves and families alive, unless they have a patch of land to raise potatoes on; there is no employment in the district.

3665. Then, people will come from other parishes with the view of getting a piece of land?—Yes, when they are ejected and obliged to come.

3666. Is it only ejected tenants who take those cuts?—I have never heard of any but ejected tenants taking them.

3667. Can you give an instance of an ejected tenant taking a new cut?—There was a man named M'Carry, whom I mentioned before; a person ejected from Mr. Stewart's, of Ards, property, named M'Cafferty, has got a cut in Old Town, the property of Mr. Nixon; and another man named Doohan.

3668. You stated that the rent upon Mr. Nixon's property was raised by him from 18*s.* to 1*l.* 10*s.* for a cow's grass; do you undertake to say that the rent in Mr. Copeland's time was only 18*s.*?—I undertake to say in regard to the townland with respect to which I gave that answer, that is, the townland of Stroughanreagh, that I was informed by a man who had been Mr. Nixon's bailiff, that Mr. Nixon had raised the rent from 18*s.* to 30*s.* in that townland.

3669. Are you of the same opinion as the Rev. Mr. Doherty, that there was no malice shown in the loss of the sheep?—I am candidly and decidedly of that opinion. I have never yet heard a sufficient reason to induce me to think they were maliciously destroyed.

3670. Are you also of Mr. Doherty's opinion that those small holdings or new cuts are very detrimental to the country?—I am; but understand me, if you please, that the new cuts in Cloughaneely are not half the size of the new cuts in Gweedore; and if the new cuts in Gweedore be detrimental to society at large, *à fortiori* they are more so in Cloughaneely.

3671. Are you of opinion that those very small holdings are injurious to the country, and that the people are unable to maintain themselves in a state of reasonable independence?—I am.

3672. What would be, in your opinion, the remedy for that state of things?—I think a great opportunity has been lost by the landlords. I think, in the case of Mr. Nixon, when he became proprietor the remedy was in his own hands. The holdings below are so small and narrow that you could leap across them; and if he had taken away every third one and planted them in the reclaimed mountain land, and given him a farm, say, instead of three acres below, a farm of 20 acres above, and had given him aid to improve it, in a short time he would have benefited the community at large, and benefited the people, and he himself would have derived great advantage from it.

3673. You think that the evil would have been remedied by larger holdings?—I consider that the small holdings without the mountain commonage are not sufficient; and I assert that the landlords have multiplied small holdings, and have acted contrary to every recognised principle of political economy.

3674. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Do the people marry very young in those small holdings?—In Cloughaneely they do not marry so very young.

3675. Lord *Naas.*] Do you think that it would have been better to have given them

them something to emigrate with?—I do not see any remedy under heaven for the people of these districts except emigration, unless they get back the mountains. I believe they will be a perpetual drag upon society at large; and I believe no private charity is at present able to cope with the distress of the people.

3676. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] About what age do they marry at Cloughaneely?—They do not marry until they are beyond 20.

3677. Lord *Naas.*] You think there is not sufficient land to enable them to raise food to keep them alive?—That is my belief; because I understand from Nicholls's report, that in Gweedore, in 1838, it was upon the mountain grazing that the people depended for paying rent and taxes, and it is so now.

3678. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Do you know a man of the name of Daniel O'Donnel, of Stroughanreagh?—I think I do. I am not quite sure as to the Christian name, but I know a man of that name there.

3679. He is a poor man with a wife and 10 children, and probably you have his name down on your relief list?—I think I know him; he lives upon a new cut.

3680. Did he get any relief?—I believe he did, as well as I recollect.

3681. Have you any recollection of his relief being stopped?—No, none. If I have a recollection of his relief being stopped, it is because he applied a second time for relief before others whom I considered to be in equal distress were relieved once. I think I have a recollection now that he did apply a second time for relief, and that was the reason why he was refused.

3682. Your answer was that you could not give him relief a second time till others had been served?—It was, to the best of my recollection.

3683. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You say that you went there first in 1838?—Yes.

3684. How long were you there at that time?—About two or three months.

3685. Did you take any particular notice at that time of the state of the district, as you have done since?—I considered that the people at that time were comfortable and all happy.

3686. Do you know how many shops were in that district in 1838, when you went there first?—I know that there was one shop there that was equivalent to three times the number of shops that are in it now altogether.

3687. Do you know how many shops were there then?—I do not.

3688. Do you know how many shops are there now?—There is nothing that deserves the name of a shop at all in the whole townland of Ray; they are generally carriers, who may have, perhaps, a half a pound of tobacco at a time.

3689. Do you know how many carts there were then?—I do not. I know this, that they have not half the number of horses now that they had then.

3690. Do you know that from your own observation?—I do not; I know it from the people; I have constantly heard it from the people.

3691. You went there again the next time in 1853?—Yes.

3692. Was the country perceptibly worse off in 1853 than in 1838?—It was.

3693. Were those appearances of comfort on the part of the people existing in 1853, when you went there a second time?—No.

3694. Were their houses changed between 1847 and 1853?—There were some new houses built in the interval.

3695. Were the houses in 1853 in the same, or in a worse state than they were in 1838?—The furniture of the houses was much worse.

3696. How were the houses themselves?—The houses themselves were better because they were obliged to build new houses.

3697. Which were the better houses, the houses in 1838 or in 1853?—Those of 1853, because they were new; the walls of them; the outside of them was better; the inside much worse.

3698. You say that there has been a partial failure of the potato crop there every year since you went there, except in 1856?—Yes.

3699. And the people required relief in consequence?—They did.

3700. In the case of those people that had stock before and have not got it now, what do they do with their land?—They have still land in their possession.

3701. How do they use it; do they take stock in to graze for money?—There are a few of them who do so, but they do it privately lest the landlord should come to know that that stock belongs to others, as they would be called upon to pay a greater amount of grazing money.

3702. From the time that you remember, in 1853 up to the present time, has the district been generally healthy or otherwise?—In 1855 and during this last

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winter there has been more sickness in Cloughaneely than in any other season since I came to the district.

3703. Was there much more sickness last year?—There was such an amount of sickness last winter that the parish priest broke down two horses in attending the sick calls.

3704. Was there much more sickness last winter than in the winter of 1856–57?—Yes, there was.

3705. Were there many more deaths from illness?—I cannot exactly speak with confidence of that, because I myself was absent during a part of February, March, and April in this last year, but I ascertained from the parish priest that the amount of sickness was a great deal more.

3706. You were yourself absent during February, March, and April?—Yes, and the latter part of the month of June last year.

3707. With regard to Tory Island, is that in your parish?—It is.

3708. Do you know how many tons of kelp were made there last year?—I have no idea.

3709. Do you know the price per ton that the kelp sold for?—I believe the average price per ton was 4 *l.* 10 *s.*

3710. Can you form no estimate of what quantity was sold?—I cannot.

3711. Do you think that there were more than 200 tons sold?—Not at all; I do not believe there was such a quantity sold.

3712. Lord *Naas.*] Do you know the number of tons of kelp that there were in that house which was seized?—I think there were 40 tons.

3713. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do you recollect the petition that was presented to the House of Commons in 1857, about a year ago, about this matter?—I do.

3714. Did you sign it?—I did.

3715. Do you know where the tenants on Mr. Olphert's property put their cattle to graze?—I have mentioned in two instances; in Keeldrum they were obliged to sell them, because they had no place to put them to graze.

3716. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Had you any rules for distributing relief, except those that were in real destitution?—None whatever.

3717. Can you undertake to say that none received relief except those that were in real destitution?—I could not undertake to say that; even when when there was a staff of officials in 1847 and 1848, a great many got relief who deceived the staff of officers, whereas we had no person whatever to assist us. I had the people so crowding by thousands around me, that I could not even write down the names of those that were asking for relief, and it is very difficult when persons are about you screaming with hunger and fainting with weakness to be accurate in every particular.

3718. There must have been very particular inquiries as to the state of those people before this appeal was made?—It did not require very particular inquiries; we were living amongst the people and associating with them every day. There is no person who knows so intimately as the priest of the district what the wants of the people are.

3719. You stated that you made no statistical inquiries, making up returns, and so forth, till after the 1st of May last?—Not so accurate an inquiry; we made an accurate inquiry without entering into that minute detail which we have done lately.

3720. How could you state in your appeal that 800 families were living upon sea-weed, if you had made no detailed inquiries?—We were in the habit of seeing them in December last; I was in the habit of meeting, every day, when I went to chapel flocks of people coming down, and I will venture to say that there were not less than 100 persons within 10 perches of the road that I passed, collecting sea-weed off the rocks, and I was wonderfully struck by the crowds that I saw on the shore endeavouring to provide themselves with this food.

3721. Did you arrive at the number of 800 families, by taking any average from the people that you saw on the shore?—We took each townland and considered the number that were destitute in it, and made an average calculation that there were at least 800; the calculation amounted to between 900 and 1,000, but to be quite sure, and to be in a position not to be contradicted, we threw off 150, and we were quite sure there were 800.

3722. Mr. *Dobbs.*] It was an estimate; it was not arrived at from actual knowledge?—It was a *bonâ fide* conviction; and I might say inside a *bonâ fide* conviction of the real state of the case.

3723. Sir

3723. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You are quite certain that except in a few cases where you may have been deceived, no person got relief except those who were really destitute?—Yes.

3724. There may have been a few cases of deception?—Yes; but our rule was destitution: for instance, there was the property of Mr. Stewart of Ards, at Derryreel; the morning I left home I visited a dying person there; the man held land; there were six in family; there was but one bed, and that poor woman, who was on her death-bed, told me that the whole of the family was obliged to lie in the same bed with herself.

3725. Had you any assistance in making particular inquiries into the circumstances of those people who were on your relief list?—We had.

3726. You know, from your own knowledge, do you not, that nobody got relief except those who were really entitled to it, with the exception of a few cases in which you might have been deceived?—Just so, as far as it came to my knowledge.

3727. Mr. *Maguire.*] Are you only speaking of Cloughaneely?—Of Cloughanheely alone.

3728. Is it the custom in your diocese to hold stations at the houses of the tenants?—It is.

3729. Do you hold them in those two parishes of Gweedore and Cloughaneely?—We do hold a station there.

3730. Will you just describe to the Committee something about those stations?—Twice a year in our diocese of Raphoe, the parish priest and curate go round to each townland; they see the people; they administer to them the Sacraments of the Catholic Church on those occasions, and if there are any disputes to settle they arrange them, and they return home again; I believe it is the custom in the diocese that the parish priest and the curate always dine at the station houses with the farmers; but in the parishes of Cloughaneely and Gweedore (they are the only two exceptions in the diocese of Raphoe) they are so poor that for the last four years the parish priest and curate of either parish did not dine on more than three occasions during that time out of their own houses, and for this reason, that the people were so poor that we could not dine with them, in fact we were ashamed if possible to put them to any expense or inconvenience in the world.

2731. Mr. *Dobbs.*] That is during the last four years?—Yes; it was not so before then.

3732. Mr. *Maguire.*] Do you think that that is a very strong indication of the poverty of the people?—I do.

3733. Do the people use flesh meat on any occasion?—I do not believe that out of the 1,100 families there are 100 individuals who taste flesh meat the whole of the year round.

3734. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Has there been an increase or decrease in your own dues as pastor of the people?—There has been a decrease last year.

3735. Since 1853 has that been so?—I was not connected with the parish before 1853.

3736. Since 1853?—There has been a decrease in 1855; 1856 was almost an average year; in 1857 there was a decrease, although we have had an increase of population.

3737. There has been a general decrease in the amount of your dues?—Yes; we have about 400 families, from whom we get nothing in the shape of dues.

3738. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] With regard to those gentlemen that you have been mentioning, Mr. Nixon, Lord Leitrim, Mr. Olphert, Mr. Woodhouse, and Lord George Hill, most of them purchased their estates, did they not?—Yes; Mr. Olphert did not purchase a great part of his estate; he succeeded his father.

3739. Did he purchase that part of which you have been giving evidence?—Only the townlands of Cashel-hill and Baltoney.

3740. You think that Mr. Nixon purchased the whole of the property of which you have been talking?—Yes.

3741. Did he purchase that under the Encumbered Estates Court?—No, I think not.

3742. Do you know whether the lands were held by any leases or agreements under the old proprietor before they were purchased by Mr. Nixon?—I do not believe there was any ageeement.

3743. In that case of Mr. Nixon and others, they came into possession of the

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etsates with the tenants who came into their hands as entirely new tenants?—Yes, so far as I know.

3744. You mentioned that in one case there was a lease of some mountain land which was respected, and that notice was given that it should be given up?—I mentioned that there was a lease in the townland of Magheraroarty, and that the mountain was included in the lease, as I have been informed.

3745. On its being found that there was a lease, that lease was respected, was it not, up to 12 years ago?—Yes.

3746. On its expiration another agreement was made between landlord and tenant?—Yes.

3747. And that was respected, was not it?—Yes, it was.

3748. They have now received notice to give it up?—They have.

3749. Has not the landlord a perfect right to give them notice to give it up?—Yes; but he has not the right to exact rent for land which they do not occupy.

3750. Mr. *Maguire.*] What you complain of is that he got the rent, though the men did not get the land?—Just so.

3751. Mr. *P. Wykeham.*] Is it a common thing all over Ireland, so far as you know, to keep tenants under notice to quit year after year?—It is quite uncommon.

3752. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is not it generally apprehended?—It is.

3753. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] Has not a landlord in Ireland the same power over the land in this respect as an English gentleman has to make new agreements, new leases, and new arrangements with his tenants at any time he thinks proper?—He has.

3754. What right did the tenants of the old cuts really possess of grazing cattle on the mountain?—The right which they had from time out of mind.

3755. What was that right?—The right of grazing their cattle upon the mountain.

3756. Any number of cattle?—Any number of cattle.

3757. How many cattle did they keep before upon the land which they held upon the old cuts?—Any number of cattle, provided that they did not introduce so large a number as the people of the townland would object to, as would be too many for the mountain to graze.

3758. Then there was no limitation as to its being the number of cattle that they themselves could take care of during the winter?—None, that has come to my knowledge.

3759. You say that they do take in stock at this time, and put it on the mountain without letting it be known to the landlord, because he would claim a rent for their so doing; do you think that a right and proper thing to do?—That is done in very many instances, and I think it is very proper, because if the people were in possession of what they were formerly, they would have a right to graze upon the mountains, and have a right to rear stock to make manure to till their land, and it is a reasonable thing to suppose that they could not till the land without manure.

3760. Did they show you any agreement or lease, or any title at any time, that they had had that right granted them by the landlord?—This was a right that was prior to the landlord, because the people held it from time immemorial.

3761. But it was held under the landlord, under the owner of the soil?—It was held by the people, and enjoyed by them.

3762. Had these tenantry and peasantry any right over the commons that they did not derive from the landlord?—I believe that is very questionable; that question is not even decided in England; the people are under the impression that they have been unjustly deprived of this mountain.

3763. It being in the power of the landlord to give them notice to quit, both the upland and the lowland, surely that right is derived from the landlord?—It is very questionable whether he could get them removed from the mountain; but he had nothing to do but to serve them with notice of ejectment from the lowlands, and then they could be easily cleared off both.

3764. You mentioned that the tenant was obliged to pay for topland 5*l.* entrance, and 1*l.* rent, and 10*s.* more; will you explain to the Committee what the 5*l.* entrance fee was for; what was the nature of the ground that induced the tenant to give 5*l.* entrance fee?—The ground, so far as I could judge, and from knowledge that I had derived from the people of the locality who were in a position to judge of the quality of the soil, was of the worst description of mountain

tain land in the county. The extent of the farm or this new cut is about four or five acres at the most, and the value of it, according to the Government valuation, is not more than at most 3*d.* per acre. But this young man was anxious to have a place where he could settle down near his friends, and where he could be in a position to be employed in weighing kelp for the kelp merchants along the sea-coast, an occupation that he was employed in in former years. He went to the landlord and asked him for this new cut, and the landlord demanded 5*l.* entrance fee, what we call in Ireland the good-will of it, and 1*l.* of rent in hand, which this young man, with very great reluctance, paid. Rev. *J. M'Fadden.* 17 June 1858.

3765. Was there a house upon it?—There was no house; it was a very spongy marsh.

3766. Did he obtain the sort of agency that you mentioned for weighing kelp?—He did not; he is living in a mud house that would starve anybody but an Irishman.

3767. Was there nothing in the shape of turf that he could sell, or anything that he could take off the estate?—There is no turf sold there.

3768. Why did he give 5*l.* for what we call entrance?—It is a thing that has been altogether unknown even in Ireland that a landlord should sell his tenant-right, as it were, to a tenant, for it is quite equivalent to that.

3769. Why did the tenant pay it?—Because he was a very foolish man.

3770. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] In the case of Daniel M'Gee, are you sure that the reason he had notice to quit was for refusing to pay the poor rates and the property tax?—The property tax; not the poor rate; I believe he is obliged to pay the poor rate; he told me not six weeks ago (because I asked him particularly about the matter) that he had been served with a notice to quit through successive years, because he would not pay the income tax.

3771. *Chairman.*] You are aware that this Committee was appointed to inquire into the destitution that was alleged by a number of clergymen to exist in the districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, and not to inquire into rights of property of any sort; and whatever inquiry has been made into the rights of property, or into the management or mismanagement of property, has been with the view of discovering some reason for this distress; and you have given it as your opinion, have you not, that if the present mode of management of the property of the district (without giving any opinion upon the goodness or badness of it) were to continue, there would be no resource for the people of the district except to be sent out of the country?—That is my opinion, because I cannot conceive of human beings being reduced to a lower depth of degradation, than to be obliged to lie by the side of the brute beasts in order to keep themselves warm at night.

The Reverend *John M'Groarty*, called in; and Examined.

3772. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] YOU are the Roman Catholic curate of Clondahorkey?—Yes. Rev. *J. M'Groarty.*

3773. How far is it from Gweedore and Cloughaneely?—It is the parish adjoining Cloughaneely; they are all in succession Clondahorkey, Cloughaneely, and Gweedore.

3774. Did you visit Cloughaneely and Gweedore or any part of them in November last?—Yes; I visited the district of Cloughaneely on the 1st of November.

3775. How long did you remain there?—I spent three days there.

3776. Did you go to Gweedore?—Not on that occasion, but in the February afterwards; about the middle of that month I visited Gweedore.

3777. How long were you there in February?—I remained a week there.

3778. Had you been in either district before you visited them on those occasions?—November was the first time that I visited them.

3779. Had you been acquainted with other districts in the county of Donegal?—Yes, other districts of a nearly similar nature.

3780. Did you see any considerable difference between the condition of the people of Cloughaneely and Gweedore and that of the other districts with which you are acquainted?—A marked difference I considered the people, as to their appearance and everything, far superior in condition to the people of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, and I even considered the labouring class in other districts better off than the tenant farmers in those districts.

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3781. Have you seen those Gweedore and Cloughaneely people at any fairs or markets?—Yes; there are two fair towns in the parish of Clondahorky, at which I saw them.

3782. Did you see any marked difference between the Gweedore and Cloughaneely people and the people of other districts at fairs and markets?—Yes, I did; they can be pointed out by the natives in Clondahorky, even those who are not personally acquainted with the inhabitants of this district, can point to them and say, those are from the district of Gweedore or Cloughaneely from their wretched looking appearance, and by their dress and all the symptoms of want which their appearance manifests.

3783. Did you visit the Gweedore district in the month of April?—I did.

3784. Did you visit Cloughaneely at that time?—Yes.

3785. About how many families did you visit between Gweedore and Cloughaneely?—I think in both parishes I visited between 230 and 240; something between those two numbers.

3786. Have you got a list of the families that you visited?—I have.

3787. Will you be able to give to the Committee the list of the people in the different townlands that you visited?—Yes, I will.

3788. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Are they the same that the Committee have heard of already?—They are the same.

3789. Describe generally to the Committee the condition in which you found those families whom you visited upon this occasion?—I found them in great destitution as to beds, bed-clothes, and body-clothes, and also as regards food; as far as I could ascertain, in a great many instances they had no provision or cattle of any sort. I inquired in some instances whether they had any some time ago, and they said they had. I cautioned them at the same time to tell me nothing but what was strictly true; and in some instances I even asked them, after they gave me statements which I thought might perhaps be exaggerated, if they were prepared to swear to the correctness of the statements, and they told me, yes, they were. I divided my visit through about 15 or 16 townlands in the district.

3790. Could you give to the Committee the name of the townlands that you visited?—Yes.

3791. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Will you distinguish between those who held land and those who did not?—In the Gweedore district they are nearly all landholders, and the exceptions are so few that I took no note except of the landholders. I believe I have a note of one or two in the Cloughaneely district who occupy a little land, but they are under-tenants, and have not their tenure from the landlord.

3792. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Do you mean that in Cloughaneely most of the families that you visited were the families of labourers?—They were tenant farmers; but there are one or two cases in that district where they have not their tenure from the landlord immediately; the rest of them are holders of land, direct tenants under the landlord.

3793. In Gweedore, were the families that you visited the families of landholders, tenants, or labourers?—Tenants.

3794. Did you visit any labourers in Gweedore?—No, not that I recollect.

3795. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You call a tenant a man who pays rent for any portion of land, however small?—Yes, to the landlord, as the proprietor of the district.

3796. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Will you describe to the Committee the condition in which you found those families, as to bedding and bed-clothes?—The general description was that they were badly off for clothing, and their houses were small and comfortless; in a great many instances they even had not a single article of furniture, not even a stool; in other instances they might have a few old ricketty chairs; generally speaking, I saw very few bedsteads. There were bed structures erected by the householders themselves, but they were not put together by any artisan; they were only temporary structures, over which a little straw was shaken; and I found that even where they had such temporary structures, if the family was any way considerable, all the younger members of the family were obliged to sleep along the fireside all night for the purposes of heat; and they told me that during the night some one of them would get up and put on more turf, to keep the fire burning all night.

3797. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Had they plenty of turf?—They had.

3798. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] What was the state of their clothes?—Very ragged. I speak of them generally; there are exceptions. The people had that rough

rough clothing which is to be found in the mountain districts and other parts of the country, but generally speaking they were very ragged; in many instances, the females particularly were not sufficiently clothed for the purposes of decency.

3799. What was their food?—I observed this. I sometimes visited the houses at the meal hour, and I have seen them in some cases take potatoes and sea-weed, and the proportion of sea-weed so far surpassed the other that I considered that nearly two-thirds of the whole was composed of sea-weed; and in other instances I saw pounded sea-weed with a little Indian meal shaken over it and mixed together, and the meal was so scanty that unless a person examined it minutely, he would scarcely discover anything but the sea-weed. I recollect particularly in the townland of Dore that I have seen the children eat the long stalks upon the top of which the wrack grows, and which are something like a walking cane.

3800. What is the name of it?—Slackmarragh.

3801. Did they give you any explanation of the causes of their distress?—Invariably they did. They ascribed their present miserable condition to the abstraction of the mountain pasture, to the increase of rent, and to the taxation.

3802. Are you acquainted with other coast districts similarly situated?—I am acquainted with two large coast districts, Inver and Killybegs.

3803. Is there any distinction between the condition of the people of those districts and that of the people of Cloughaneely and Gweedore?—There is a most marked distinction. I have never known the people of those districts making use of the same sort of sea-weed as is used in the districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely.

3804. When you say the same sort of sea-weed, do you mean that the people of Killybegs and the other place use any sea-weed?—They use a small quantity of what is called dillisk and sloke; not as an article of food, but as a relish to their food.

3805. Did you see the sea-weed used extensively as an article of food in Gweedore and Cloughaneely?—I did; I saw them at their meals.

3806. Did you go alone to those houses?—I went alone.

3807. Did you take them indiscriminately?—Yes; sometimes I did not know the name of the townland, and I inquired at places where they did not expect me; they had no notice whatever; for when I left the place I started from, I had not determined the particular direction I would take.

3808. How long did you remain there in April?—About three weeks, every day of which I spent in visiting the houses of the people.

3809. Did you make a minute and careful inquiry?—A most minute and careful inquiry.

3810. Can you give the Committee some illustration of the state of things that you found?—In the townland of Magheraclogher I visited Neal Dohertys, and I took a note of his house and family as I saw them, and of what I learned from inquiring from the man himself.

3811. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What month was this in?—In April last; about the 28th.

3812. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] In what condition did you find this man?—This man's family were all squatted round the fire; they had no seat of any kind; there were 10 altogether, including himself and wife, and this man was blind. He was employed by Lord George Hill at blasting, and in that employment he lost the use of his sight, and was obliged to go to the hospital, where he remained for some time, and in consequence of his absence his wife became unable to pay the rent, and she informed me that she employed some person to intercede for her, and beg the landlord not to exact the rent which was due on the little holding during her husband's absence; but she met with a refusal, and in consequence had to sell a small holding that she had in another townland, in order to pay three years' rent. At that time they had nothing to support them, till they got relief, they had got some meal from the relief committee. The children were in such a state of nudity that I do not believe any person would wish to look at them; they were round the fire; three of them had the measles; but I might say they were literally naked. The man told me that some time during the collection of the cess, head constable Young entered his house, and seized on some little oats that they had, and brought it outside, and proceeded to auction it, and would have done so, were it not that one of his neighbours promised to pay the tax. The children, on this occasion, he told me,

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me, cried desperately, and even the neighbours who were present at the time shed tears.

3813. Had he any oats when you were there?—None whatever; he was entirely destitute; he had only some relief meal from the committee at that time.

3814. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Would head constable Young have any option in such a case as this, or was he doing it in discharge of his duty?—He was. I do not mention the thing at all to reflect upon head constable Young, but I related it as showing the destitution of the people; of course he was discharging his duty.

3815. Am I to understand the story in this way, that this man, Neal Doherty, was injured in Lord George Hill's service, and was obliged to go into the hospital; that during his absence in the hospital from this injury, his wife was compelled to sell another holding to discharge the rent?—She was obliged to sell another holding to pay the rent that was due on the farm during his absence.

3816. An absence caused by injury received in Lord George Hill's service?—That is what she stated to me.

3817. Was Lord George Hill her landlord?—Yes.

3818. It was Lord George Hill to whom the rent was paid?—Yes, it was.

3819. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Did he state when he was injured in Lord George Hill's service?—I think she said that it was at the time that the store was being built; it was at blasting work. I do not know when it was. I was not acquainted with the district at that time, but she stated that as a certain fact.

3820. Was it 20 years ago?—I do not know what time exactly.

3821. Was the husband in the hospital at the time you were there?—No, he was at home; he was in the house when I visited it.

3822. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] When this holding was sold, was he in hospital?—I am not exactly sure, but I know it was to pay the rent that became due on the holding during the time he was absent.

3823. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Absent from what cause?—Absent in the hospital in consequence of having received some part of the rock that struck his eye, and he was obliged to go to hospital.

3824. How many years before?—They stated that the rent was for three years.

3825. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Previous to the loss of his eye?—No; it was from the time he received the injury up to the time of paying the rent; it was three years' arrears that they had to pay.

3826. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Was he three years in the hospital?—I am not sure.

3827. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] What you mean is, that he was unable to pay any rent for three years, because of this injury to his eye, and his wife was forced to sell her land to pay the rent?—Yes.

3828. You have never been in the district till some months ago, I think—No.

3829. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] How long before your visit did this occur?—It had occurred some years ago; it must have been, I think, at building the store at Bunbeg, or some houses there.

3830. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Probably it was 17 or 18 years ago?—Probably it was.

3831. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] I understand you to say that you never were in this district till about six months ago?—So I said. I say that I am not prepared to say exactly when this accident occurred, but I say it was some years ago.

3832. Mr. *Dobbs.*] They told you that it was when the store was built, did they?—No; but I conclude it was about that time.

3833. When was the store built?—I never made any particular inquiry; it has been there for some number of years; the injury was received at blasting rocks.

3834. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You did not take any particular pains to make inquiries about the particulars of the transaction?—No; I only inquired as to the fact I have stated.

3835. That he lost his sight and, was obliged to sell his land?—Yes.

3836. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Do you remember visiting the house of Owen M'Causland?—Yes; that is in Dunmore.

3837. How did you find him?—This man has six in family; he has no cow; the family were nearly naked; there was only in his house, at the time I visited it, a peck of meal; there were only two stools in the shape of furniture; and his wife

wife stated to me that but one fortnight after her confinement she was obliged to go to the sea-shore, a distance of two miles off, to collect sea-weed to support herself and her family.

3838. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Was her husband alive?—Yes.

3839. Was he there?—He was in the house at the time.

3840. Had she any other children except the one she had been recently confined with?—The other children go to service; I did not see any other children in the house at the time, except some small children that would not be able to go that distance.

3841. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] From your observation of the district, can you say that the relief was necessary for the people?—I would.

3842. Could they, in your opinion, have continued to subsist if they had not obtained relief?—I think they could not, for in a great many instances a quantity of provisions could not have escaped my observation; if there was anything like a chest in the house I obliged them to open it for me; they generally had only one apartment, and I inspected every part of it minutely, and I think that a stock of provisions could not have escaped my notice.

3843. Can they, in your opinion, continue to exist in their present condition?—I believe they cannot, unless one of two things is done; unless those mountains which were taken away from them are returned to them, or they are enabled to emigrate. I put the question, frequently, whether they would emigrate, if there were some fund raised for that purpose, and they said they would rather emigrate than live under present circumstances.

3844. Mr. *Dobbs.*] If the mountains were given back would they be able to live?—I think that if the mountains were given back, and some of the surplus population emigrated, then a large number of the persons who are now living in it at present would be able to live in comfort.

3845. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] In cases where no mountain was taken away from them the only cure is emigration?—Yes.

3846. Do many young men of those families enlist in the militia in that district?—I am not aware as to the number.

3847. Did you ever hear of any?—I never made any inquiries upon the subject.

3848. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Are you at all acquainted with the district, except from having visited it in the way you have described?—I had no personal acquaintance with it, but I had known it by character for a number of years, and particularly for the last three or four years.

3849. Had you known it as a very poor district?—Yes; I had heard it talked of in different parts of the country.

3850. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Will you hand in to the Committee to-morrow a list of the townlands that you visited, and also, as far as you can, the names of the families and the names of the individuals comprising the family; can you make out that list?—I could not give the names of the individuals comprising the families, but I could give the men's names, the number of families, and the townlands.

3851. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] With regard to M'Causland, of Dunmore, was he living in the house at the time you visited it, when you found his wife and a child there a fortnight old?—I did not say I found a child a fortnight old; but she stated to me, that in a fortnight after her confinement she was obliged to go a distance of two miles to the sea-shore, to collect sea-weed for the purpose of food.

3852. How was the husband employed?—The husband was employed working on a little piece of land.

3853. How large a piece of land was he working upon?—I did not inspect the farm.

3854. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do you know who this Owen M'Causland's landlord was?—The Earl of Leitrim.

Veneris, 18° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bagwell.	Mr. P. Wykeham Martin.
Sir John Yarde Buller.	Mr. Maguire.
Mr. Serjeant Deasy.	Lord Naas.
Mr. Dobbs.	Sir William Somerville.
Sir Edmund Hayes.	

JOHN BAGWELL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Thomas Neilson Underwood, Esq., called in; and Examined.

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3855. Mr. *Maguire.*] WHERE do you reside?—In Strabane, in the county of Tyrone, Ireland.

3856. May I ask what profession you are?—I am a law student, of the Inner Temple, and but for this commission, I would have been called next term as a barrister of the English bar.

3857. Are you well acquainted with the district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, in the county of Donegal?—I am.

3858. When did you first visit the Gweedore district?—In 1854–55.

3859. Had you any object in visiting it then?—Yes.

3860. What was your object?—My object in visiting it at that time was to invest money in it for a friend, in the purchase of property.

3861. Did you at that time make any inquiries as to the condition of the people and the condition of the district?—Yes, I made all possible inquiries.

3862. So that you made yourself personally acquainted with the condition of the people?—Most certainly; with the position of the people of that particular locality; in that particular district of country.

3863. What particular parts of it did you visit and make yourself acquainted with?—I visited the estate of Mrs. Russell of Dunlewy.

3864. Did you visit any other part?—I travelled through other parts of the country, but I speak principally of Mrs. Russell's property, an estate of five townlands.

3865. Did you at that time, in prosecution of your inquiries, go into the houses of the peasantry?—I did.

3866. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] Were any of those estates on sale when you went down there?—They were; they were advertised for sale.

3867. Mr. *Maguire.*] You inspected that property minutely, did you?—I did. I went over the home farm connected with Mrs. Russell's property very minutely, and I went into Upper and Lower Crowley, and to a place called Baltinny Mountain. The estate contained 10,300 acres, and it is principally barren mountain. I have the rental of the estate here, and the certain rents as returned by her agents, Mr. Jeremiah Smith, late mayor of Rye, Messrs. Brown, auctioneers, 22 Throgmorton-street, of this city, and by her brother. The certain rental of the estate I discovered to be between 70*l.* and 80*l.* She had, however, the home farm, 150 acres of reclaimed boggy land, in her possession, and some 4,000 acres of mountain. The rental returned was 120*l.* When I use the expression "certain rents," I do not apply the epithet "certain" to such rents as the lettings for shootings and fishings, the police barrack, and the national agricultural school.

3868. Were the peasantry of the Gweedore district suffering from the pressure of the failure of the potato crop in 1855?—I heard so; I had no means of ascertaining

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ascertaining their previous position, but at that time there was some suffering in the district.

3869. Did you derive a knowledge of that from the facts stated by the people themselves?—I derived my knowledge of it from gentlemen connected with the locality, in conversation with them about it, and from the people themselves

3870. What time of the year was it that you were there in 1855?—It was in October or November 1855.

3871. Were you struck, at that time, with the general aspect of the country?—I was. I had seen a great deal of Ireland, both in the north and south, and I had seen nothing equal to it. The habitations of the people, the tenantry of the country, were inferior to the mud cabins in the Bog of Allen, built for squatters and day labourers, and certainly utterly inferior to the hovels on the mountainous district of Connemara.

3872. Did you examine many of those houses in 1855 and 1856?—Yes; in 1855 I examined a great number of the houses. The situation of Mrs. Russell's house is a level, at the edge of the lake Macung, and rising opposite to this is the mountain Aragle; there is a large village of houses at the base of this mountain; I went through the houses very carefully, and I certainly was not prepared for witnessing the destitution that I saw. I had not received the rental at that time, but I expected, from the advertisement, that it was a property producing 1,400 *l.* or 1,500 *l.* a year, or else I would not have gone to it.

3873. Did the people then say anything as to the increased rents, and as to mountain commonage?—Yes; the rents had not been increased on Mrs. Russell's property, but they had been increased on neighbouring properties, and they expected that their turn of misery was then about to come.

3874. Did they say anything about the mountain commonage?—They were in a great deal of doubt and fear about the mountain commonage, because neighbouring proprietors had taken the mountain commonage from the people.

3875. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] You state that it had not been done on Mrs. Russell's property?—Not on her property; they were only afraid of it.

3876. Mr. *Maguire.*] The people said that it had been taken away by neighbouring proprietors from their tenants?—Yes, they did.

3877. Do they apprehend that serious consequences will result from taking that away from them?—Yes; and I am perfectly convinced that they were correct in making that statement, because human existence could not be preserved on the small portions of arable land in their possession.

3878. When did you visit that district last?—In May 1858. I visited the district three times between that date and my previous visit. I visited it in 1854, 1855, 1856, I believe in 1857, and certainly in May 1858.

3879. Then you made five visits to the district?—Yes, four or five.

3880. When did you visit it last?—On the 6th May of this year I passed through this district.

3881. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] That was your first visit after 1855?—No, my third or fourth visit after 1854-55.

3882. Mr. *Dobbs.*] When were you there last before May?—I should say about 12 months before that.

3883. Was it in May 1857?—About that time; it was in the spring of 1857. I can fix the dates with precision if the Committee require it.

3884. Mr. *Maguire.*] You say that you visited this district in May of this year?—Yes.

3885. On the occasion of your visit, did you immediately commence making a tour of inspection?—Most certainly; I went there for that purpose; I was asked, in the most public manner, to go there.

3886. On the evening of your arrival, did you commence your operations?—Yes, on the day of my arrival.

3887. How many houses did you visit on that occasion?—I posted from Strabane to a place called Derrybeg, and I reached Derrybeg about one o'clock, and I examined the houses on each side of the road from Derrybeg to Bunbeg, where there is a corn store, a shop, a county mill, and a coast-guard station. I visited 40 or 50 houses.

3888. What townland is that in?—It is called Magheraclogher, or Middletown.

3889. Did you go through the townland of Magheraclogher?—Yes, portions of it.

3890. And portions of the townland of Middletown?—Yes, I visited.

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3891. On whose estate is that?—The Committee can obtain the names of the landlords of the estates from public documents. I am reluctant to name individuals. The question is a question of destitution, and I do not wish to make it an individual matter; but, as you must have an answer, those townlands I am speaking of are on Lord George Hill's estate.

3892. Do you mean to say that you visited 40 or 50 houses the first day in the district?—Yes, I did; I spent till half-past nine or ten o'clock at night in visiting. I was in Derrybeg and all round the hills in the vicinity.

3893. What was the appearance presented by the houses?—Some of the houses on the roadside looked remarkably neat and clean, and presented a very pleasing exterior.

3894. Was the appearance of the interior of the houses equal to that of the outside?—No, it was not.

3895. Will you describe the difference?—The appearance of the exterior of some of the houses was such as a gentleman would build for his labourers in the inland portions of the country, in Meath or Tipperary, or even in Northumberland; they were slated and whitewashed; but the interior of the houses presented nothing but squalid wretchedness.

3896. Were you greatly disappointed at the appearance of the interior?—I was struck with sorrow and regret.

3897. And with surprise?—Yes; and with regret that it should have been so.

3898. Did you visit the house of James Sweeney of Magheraclogher?—I did.

3899. Will you describe the interior of that house?—The house was an ordinary square house; there was a bedstead in the house; there was evidently an entire desire on the part of the inmates to have everything cleanly about them. Round the door of the house and the interior of the house, it was swept up cleanly.

3900. Did you examine whether they had a bed or not in that house?—Yes, there was a bedstead in the house.

3901. Was there a bed?—Yes, there was a bed.

3902. What was it composed of?—The bed was a number of sticks like the ordinary rounds in an ordinary bed, and some boards put over, and a little straw shaken upon it, with a sort of sheet, and a cover over it.

3903. There was no regular tick?—There was no regular tick, it was a mere litter of straw, like old thatch.

3904. Did you go into Neal Doherty's house?—Yes.

3905. Will you describe it to the Committee?—The house was similar.

3906. Was there a bed in it?—There was a sort of thing very nearly the same as that I have spoken of.

3907. Was it a bed or a mere sop of straw?—It was a lair of bad straw; you could not apply the expression "bed" to any of them. I understand by the expression "bed," something either straw or feathers, or down or hair, or something of that sort contained in a tick with clothing over it; there was nothing of that sort.

3908. Was the family at their meals at the time of your visit?—There were nine children in the house; I saw them eating; they were eating sea-weed and Indian meal.

3909. Did you examine as to the proportion between sea-weed and Indian meal?—No, it was a pulp-like mass blackened like that inkstand on the table; a forbidding, nasty jelly-like sort of thing with a little sprinkling of meal over it; I could not say the proportion.

3910. Did the sea-weed predominate?—Yes, utterly.

3911. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Was there a sheet on the straw that the man used for a bed?—Yes, there was a sort of sheet, a sort of coverlet on it.

3912. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did you visit the house of James Roarty?—Yes, I did.

3913. Was that equally wretched?—It was terribly so. There was little or no furniture visible that I could see; there was an old woman in the house, and a ewe and a lamb; I could not give a description of the sort of furniture in the house.

3914. Was the bed bad?—It was not a bed, it was a lair of straw.

3915. Did you visit Roger Gallagher's house?—Yes.

3916. Will you describe it to the Committee?—It was equally wretched. The appearance of the exterior of the house was very good. I mean that compared with the position and size of the man's farm, it was very good.

3917. To a casual visitor would it give an idea of comfort and prosperity?—To a person who did not go into the house it would be utterly deceptive; he could

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could have no idea of the house from travelling on the highway. I may add, that a stranger going into the locality would feel a great deal of delicacy in going into the houses; the people there have feelings like people in other places, and they do not wish to be intruded on. I frequently requested the clergymen to desist from the examination.

3918. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] What clergymen do you refer to?—There were three clergymen, the Rev. John Doherty, the Rev. Mr. M'Ghee, the Rev. Mr. M'Groarty, and one of the Reverend Mr. M'Faddens.

3919. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What do you say that you requested them to desist from?—From examination. I thought it was wounding to the feelings of the people. In the case of one of those persons I saw her turn and shed tears, and I thought that that was ample proof.

3920. Mr. *Maguire.*] And you in compassion for them begged the clergymen to desist?—I did.

3921. Did the clergymen lead you to those houses, or did you yourself visit them as it were promiscuously?—They tracked me, and I took the houses as they came. I went to the houses right and left of the road without exception.

3922. Did the clergymen mark out the houses that you were to visit?—Positively not. I took them as they came. Wherever I found it was convenient, or wherever I could get an easy path, or anything of that sort, I went to the houses. I am not very capable of clambering over rough roads.

3923. How many houses did you visit during the entire time that you were in this district in May?—I should say in that locality I visited about 50 or 60 houses, certainly.

3924. Would the houses of the people, whose names I have mentioned, generally represent the condition of the 40, or 50, or 60 houses that you visited?—There are grades in wretchedness; there were some houses, certainly, not kept clean, which had in reality more comfort than those that were clean. I mean more substantive comfort and more probabilities of comfort; there were slight grades; it was an up and down sort of thing; in fact, you might call it almost a dead level of wretchedness; a man might as safely say there is stench from the River Thames, as that there is destitution in that district.

3925. Did you see many beds in those 40 or 50 houses that you visited?—I saw none what I could call beds; there were some wretched make-shifts of the kind I have described, but no bed.

3926. Would your phrase, "a lair of straw," generally describe the character of the bed upon which they lay?—Yes, a lair of broken old straw.

3927. In the 40 or 50 houses that you inspected did you see much or little furniture, or any furniture?—There was a sort of dead state of things; in some cases there would be a couple of chairs, which they might purchase in country towns for 1*s.* or 15*d.* a piece, and a few stools, something made of bog fir, that is, fir dug up out of the bogs, and little trestles or feet put into them; there was a sort of dresser and a few plates, a few bowls in some cases, and in some there would be none.

3928. Did you see those chairs in every house?—Certainly not in all houses. I find in my notes the case of a man named Byrne, a weaver; he has no furniture whatever in his house.

3929. Was he a tenant on this estate?—Yes, I believe so. There was no stool, chair, or bed; it was a lair or litter of straw. His family consisted of his wife and himself, and here is an entry that I took down from the old man. He says he "remembers in Boney's time" (meaning Napoleon Bonaparte's time, I presume), "when he could earn 4*s.* or 5*s.* a day; he now would not keep the sticks going if it were not to get a bit of tobacco." The seats in this man's house were what are callled hassocks, or lumps of turf dug out of the bog, and I saw a stone, which was probably used as a seat.

3930. Mr. *Dobbs.*] He said he would not keep the sticks going, except for the sake of getting a little tobacco?—Yes; he said that the wool was gone out of the country, and there was no weaving as there used to be.

3931. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did you examine into the condition of the people's day clothing?—I did.

3932. What was the general result of your inquiries as to the condition of their day clothing in those 40 or 50 houses?—It is a difficult thing to realise to the mind of a person who has not seen it. The women were wearing a sort of bedgown, a petticoat sort of thing, and some of them had a handkerchief tied over

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their bosoms; they were shoeless and stockingless, and in many cases capless, and the clothing was in rags, save such of them as had received those old garments which were given to them from the money which was collected for the relief; there was a large sum of money collected for relief, and a large amount of old clothing collected, and this was distributed, and you could at once see where it was distributed.

3933. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Had many of the women caps?—Some of them had.

3934. What sort of caps?—Those sort of caps that are made up of coarse muslin.

3935. Mr. *Maguire.*] If the women you saw had no caps, and had sufficient clothing for the purposes of decency, would you say they were badly off for want of caps?—No, certainly not; but very old gray-haired women wish to wear caps.

3936. You do not intend to represent that the absence of a cap shows poverty?—Certainly not; there are many places in America, for instance, where they do not wear caps.

3937. Would the absence of a cap indicate destitution in your opinion?—It would not, if the clothing were otherwise comfortable.

3938. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Why do you say that in many cases they were capless?—I was asked to describe their appearance, and that was a part of my answer. I answered the question in full, and I have no idea of adding to or diminishing it. I have no interest in the matter save the interest that any man of humanity should have, and which you should have.

3939. Mr. *Maguire.*] Will you describe simply the state of their clothing generally; did it exhibit either great poverty or great comfort?—Certainly, great poverty.

3940. Did it exhibit destitution or comfort?—Destitution, positive and unmistakeable.

3941. In any of those 40 or 50 houses, did you see any instance where the women had not sufficient clothing for the purposes of decency?—No, not at the time I visited them; but I had better say that I saw clothing which I knew to have been collected, old garments that I know to have been collected, and which must have been given them. There were contributions of old clothing went out of London to them.

3942. Is it the fact or not that a large quantity of clothing was sent from different parts of the country to the Gweedore district?—Yes. I remember seeing large bales of clothing sent; and I was myself instrumental in having several large bales of clothing sent.

3943. Independently of what was purchased by the clergymen for the people, were there large quantities of clothing sent from different parts of the country to the district?—There were; there were large bales of clothing came from the City of London; others came from Glasgow, that I know of; and there were others which came from Dublin and Belfast. I caused to be collected large quantities in Strabane, the town with which I am connected; we gave them 60*l.* as a contribution, and many people gave old clothing.

3944. Mr. *Dobbs.*] It was after they had got those contributions that you visited them in May?—Yes, the last time that I now speak of. I speak of their destitution, not with reference to the quantity of garments which they had then received.

3945. Mr. *Maguire.*] Coming to the 7th of May, where did you go on that day?—I left Derrybeg by the mail-car road, towards a place called Falcarragh, or Cross Roads.

3946. Did you visit the toplands of Carrick on that day?—I did.

3947. Did you visit what are called the new cuts in that locality?—Yes, I did.

3948. Is this Lord George Hill's property?—I am not aware.

3949. Did you examine the new cuts marked out in this district in Carrick?—I did.

3950. In what condition did you find the people who were occupying them?—There are degrees of wretchedness in them as in everything else; they were in a sad and saddening position.

3951. Were they in a worse condition than what you saw them in before?—Yes, greatly worse, because they were in a hopeless position.

3952. Did you visit the house of Patrick M'Cafferty?—Yes, I did.

3953. Was he one of the people occupying a new cut?—Yes, he was.

3954. Will you describe the condition of his house?—The house was a sort of hovel-house;

hovel-house; a sort of angular structure, with straw thatch or sea bent on it, and erected with rough stones and mud; the man was engaged in trenching the bog at the time that I came to the place, to burn it and make a little surface for his crop.

3955. Mr. *Dobbs.*] How many rooms were there in the house?—But one room.

3956. Besides the kitchen?—They have not kitchens there.

3957. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Was there a door?—Yes.

3958. And a window?—Yes; and a sort of chimney; it was a small thing erected by the man himself.

3959. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is it what would be called a hovel in any other part of Ireland?—It is what would be called a hovel in Tyrone; I am positive that it would be called a hovel.

3960. Will you describe the interior of it?—The interior was a black, dirty looking place.

3961. Was there a bed?—There was the sort of lair that I have already described.

3962. Was it a bed or lair of straw?—A lair of straw only.

3963. What was the dress of the people?—Very indigent; there were two children in the house, and the mother and daughter.

3964. Did you ask as to the food they ate?—I did.

3965. What was it?—Indian meal and sea-weed.

3966. Did you visit any other houses?—I did.

3967. Did you visit Manus Gallagher's house?—I did.

3968. Was that as bad as the other?—It was worse; it was a house of sods; the entrance was not higher above the earth than three feet, and I had to crouch going into it.

3969. Would you call it a house or a hovel?—I would say it was not fit for a beast.

3970. Was the owner of that house a tenant on the estate, and an occupier of the new cuts?—Yes.

3971. Mr. *Dobbs.*] How much land had he?—I am not aware of the extent of land, but I am of the rent he paid; he paid 1 *l.* 10 *s.*

3972. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did the people appear very poor?—Very poor.

3973. Did they seem to be ill or well fed?—They appeared to be wretchedly fed. The mother was suckling an infant, and I believe that she was not able to give it sustenance; it was tugging at her breast and crying.

3974. Were you much struck with the poverty of that family?—I was, and I asked the priest what was his motive, or what could be the motives of any person for advising human beings to locate themselves in such a hopeless way, and he said that their attachment to their homes was too strong for his admonitions, and that he advised them to go to Australia, or go to beg elsewhere, but it was of no use; the man said that he was the son of a person called Daniel Gallagher, from whom the mountain had been taken in Tor. He said further, that there were 16 such cuts in Carick; I examined several of those cuts. A cut was a spade track made in a moss or a pure bog, and out of the pure bog they had to trench deep water channels all round it, in order to grow their corn or potatoes, or whatever produce they put into it they had to heap up a centre ridge, and put the crops in there.

3975. Would the description you have given of M'Cafferty and Gallagher's houses apply to all the other 16 occupiers of new cuts that you inspected?—Do you wish to infer that there was a sort of level between the destitution of one and the comparative destitution of the others?

3976. I ask simply, does the description which you have given of only two apply to the 16 which you examined; were they worse or were they better?—They were medium.

3977. Were they much worse or much better?—I do not think there was any of them much worse than the one I have described. There may have been some of them a little better than the first house; I remember going into one house in which their walls were very nicely built with stone and mud, and they were covered in above.

3978. Were the majority of the 16 that you examined of the same description as Gallagher and M'Cafferty's houses, or were they not?—The majority of the houses were of the description of the two first described.

3979. In any one of them did you see anything like the appearance of real comfort?—Not in one; there is no real comfort among them; the most wretched

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cottier labourer in the most wretched agricultural district is better off than the best of them; a man depending upon 8*d.* a day is better off.

3980. Was the clothing of the people occupying those 16 houses good or bad?—It was very, very poor; the female that I speak of in this instance, who was suckling her child, gathered herself into a corner to take herself from the light of the door when she saw a stranger coming in.

3981. Did you think that her clothing was sufficient for the purposes of decency?—I did not; I was sorry to see it.

3982. Did you visit the townland of Glashercoo?—I did.

3983. Did you visit it on the same day?—Yes, on that day.

3984. Did you go into the house of Charles M'Geever?—I did.

3985. How many has he in family?—Twelve in family.

3986. Did you inquire as to his circumstances?—Yes, I did.

3987. What was the result of your inquiry?—I ascertained that the rent was 1*l.* 10*s.*

3988. Had it been lower?—I heard from the man himself that it had been 15*s.*, and that he was raised to 1*l.* 10*s.* somewhere about 1856.

3989. Had that man any stock?—Yes; he had a cow and two calves; a cow worth about 30*s.*

3990. Had he a bed in his house, as he was the possessor of stock?—There was one bed for the whole family.

3991. Was it a bed or a lair of straw?—I saw no bed; it was such as I have described before.

3992. Was this bed for the father and mother, or for the entire family?—I should say it was for as many as could crowd in it.

3993. Did you see more than one lair of straw?—I did; and why I say so with such precision is, that I noted down every minutiæ in this paper, and I am willing to submit it if the Committee pleases.

3994. Have you a particular description of the people of that townland in any note that you have taken?—Yes. I say they were all without shoes, and I use the expression half-clad. "I found the children eating sea wrack weed through absolute hunger; the children had been at the sea side for the first tide, and when we visited it at 2 p. m. there was no appearance of food in the house," save the sea-weed, and there was certainly no store of potatoes in the house or about it.

3995. Did you inquire whether they had a store of potatoes or not?—They could not hide them from me.

3996. Did you examine the houses?—I did, carefully, with that view. The usual place where they stow the potatoes is under those lairs; they generally wall them in with a little parapet of turf.

3997. Did you examine minutely on the previous evening as to the fact whether or not the people had a store of food in those 40 or 50 houses which you describe?—I did; I asked most carefully.

3998. Did you also make a personal inspection?—I did.

3999. Did you find any quantities of food in their possession?—I found no quantity of food in their possession. The utmost that I saw was about four or five stone of potatoes; and in some cases I saw what they call the butts of potatoes, a piece cut off from the potato when they are preparing them for planting; they cut off the dead end of the potato, and plant the other, or seedling end.

4000. Were the notes from which you read taken upon the spot?—Most certainly.

4001. As the immediate result of your inquiry?—Yes, just as they came.

4002. Take the case of Daniel M'Clay; describe what you saw there?—There were eight of the family. The old rent, he said, was 18*s.*, and it was raised to 1*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*; he said that he had paid the police tax, 1*l.* 5*s.*, but that he did not pay any of the sheep assessment, as the proprietor paid it for him.

4003. Had this man any stock?—He had two little stirks, young heifers.

4004. Did you see the food prepared?—No; I asked in relation to his food; and he said his food was two meals of potatoes a day, pounded with sea-weed, or sea-weed and Indian meal.

4005. Had this man a bed?—He had got a rug or blanket from the priest out of this relief fund.

4006. Had he a bed?—There was a sort of straw lair in the house, like those described

4007. Before they got that relief, did they say that they had any covering?—They said that they lay under the garments that they had worn during the day.

4008. Did

4008. Did those people say anything as to the mountain commonage?—Yes, they complained bitterly of being deprived of the mountain commonage.

4009. Did they attribute their poverty to it?—Yes, that and the taxes, and increased rents. There were eight persons in the house; and I say on my notes, "the grandmother is very sickly from want of food, and the daughter also, and one of the little boys; starvation is in every face. I can compare them to nothing but people on a raft," from the sort of look that they had, from the squalor of their persons.

4010. You wrote that description down at the moment?—Exactly, as the result of my observation.

4011. In the townland of Magheraroarty, did you go into the house of Dennis M'Gee?—I did. There are six of a family in his house. The old rent, he said, was 1*l.* 4*s.*, and the new rent was 3*l.* 10*s.* He said he lost the mountain commonage, and he has found the rent gradually tighten upon him; he said the rent was advanced 1*l.* 10*s.* last year; he said, further, that wherever the proprietor bought, the tenants always got a squeeze.

4012. Was this man one of the worst off?—He was not; he was comparatively comfortable. I wish they were all as well off.

4013. Even in the case of this person, who you say was comparatively comfortable, did you see any real indications of what you call comfort?—No; I did not.

4014. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] How was he comparatively comfortable?—Compared with the others.

4015. Mr. *Maguire.*] Will you describe the difference between this man's case and the other cases?—The family of this man had not the imploring look in their face that the others had, and they were not wrinkled, and had not the pallor of destitution in their faces that the others had.

4016. Were they better or worse dressed?—I could not say that they were worse dressed.

4017. Mr. *Dobbs.*] The only difference was in their personal appearance?—Yes, sir. The only difference was in their personal appearance; in the colour of the people, and the general look of them, and the aspect of the house. There is something about it that did not betoken the same destitution, or create the same feeling in my mind that the others did.

4018. What was the general aspect of the house you speak of?—The house was an ordinary sort of square house.

4019. Was there a bed in it?—There was one of those sort of partitioned things, it was more like an inshot in the wall.

4020. Did you see a tick on it?—Certainly not.

4021. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Was it a stone house?—Yes; mud and stone.

4022. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Can you give any idea of the size?—I should say it was about 15 by 18 or 20 feet.

4023. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did you go to the house of Dennis O'Brien?—I did.

4024. Will you describe it?—There were 11 of a family in his house. I have a note here, that this man had reclaimed half an acre of the bogland. I can describe this house, and a melancholy picture it is: five of the children, at the time I entered this house, were lying on a little lair of straw on the floor, in measles, and the only covering that was over them was the rags that they would have worn when they were in good health.

4025. Was there any furniture in the house?—None whatever that you could have called furniture; I have no note of it.

4026. Did you inquire as to their food?—I did.

4027. What was it?—It must have been very wretched; I assume that it was the remnants of the potato crop.

4028. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What answer did you get to your inquiry as to the food?—They asked for relief, and, as in other cases, I gave some.

4029. You say you inquired as to their food?—Yes. They said they had one meal and sometimes two meals a day, of potatoes and Indian meal, and potatoes and sea-weed. I found at the end of the house some cockles, cockle-shells, whelks, and barnacle shells, a couple of creelfuls, at least.

4030. How far was it from the sea?—The sea is within sight of this locality, a few miles off.

4031. Is it near the sea-shore?—It cannot be far from the sea shore; this is a coast road.

4032. Did you see any quantity of food in the house?—I did not.

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4033. Did you see any food whatever?—No, I saw nothing but a little bag of meal; I should say about 9 lbs. or 10 lbs. of meal; and I saw a little skillet-full of shell fish in process of cooking.

4034. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Did you see the sea-weed?—I did not see sea-weed cooking in this place, but there was sea-weed in the house. You could not go into any of the houses without seeing sea-weed.

4035. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did you go to Derryconnor Mountain?—Yes, I went to Derryconnor Mountain.

4036. Did you visit the house of James M'Geever?—Yes, I visited the house of James M'Geever.

4037. Did he occupy one of the new cuts?—Yes, he occupied one of those tracked-out spaces.

4038. Was he paying rent for it?—I find it marked here that the rent was 1 *l.*, and Griffiths' valuation was 8 *s.*

4039. Describe the character of this house?—It was about eight feet by six.

4040. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Would you call it a house or a hovel?—It is difficult to call it a house at all.

4041. Was this man in a position to crop his land?—He said that he was not, but he said he had received 10 stone of seed oats from the relief fund.

4042. Do you know who is the proprietor of this Derryconnell Mountain?—It is represented in Mr. Griffith's book as being Mr. Olphert's.

4043. Did you make any inquiries as to the possession of food by this family, as to the daily food?—I have no note whether I inquired or not; but "all the food" that I saw in or about the house was six potatoes and a creel of sea-weed fresh from the shore; the potatoes were being cooked for the man's dinner; they were being roasted at the fire, in the ashes, and the family were gathered round the hearth; the man was with his clothes dripping on him as he came from the turf, and he was leaning forward when we went in watching the process of cooking.

4044. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Did you ask whether he had any other potatoes or a potato pit?—I did, and he said he had not.

4045. Mr. *Maguire.*] Could potatoes be kept in a field at that time, in the month of May?—Farmers would not keep them; they will not keep in a field at that time; they must be stored at that time, as vegetation sets in.

4046. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Did you ask whether he had any more food?—I did, and he said he had not.

4047. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was there a bed in the house?—There was a bed in the house; a sort of lair, such as those I have described.

4048. Was it a bed, or a lair of straw?—It was a lair of straw, such as I have described; it was not a tick; it was nothing confined within any covering.

4049. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] May the Committee take it for granted that a bed means a lair of straw, unless you state the contrary?—Yes.

4050. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did you go into the house of Francis Doohan?—I did; there were five of a family.

4051. Was the house of that man as bad as the others?—I say it is very wretched, but not so bad as the rest; that is the expression on my notes.

4052. Did you inquire as to their food?—That is all the notes that I have in regard to them.

4053. If that man had a bed would you have considered it so remarkable as to have deserved a note?—Yes; it would have been on my notes.

4054. Even though this man's house was not so bad as others, still the family were obliged to lie on a lair of straw?—Yes.

4055. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Was this house in Derryconnor too?—Yes, it was.

4056. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did you go into John M'Geever's house?—I went into John M'Geever's house.

4057. Had this man a large family?—Children rising from an infant in arms upwards; the mother was nursing an infant; the man was a fine-looking man, and he said the old rent was 16 *s.*, and the new rent 2 *l.* 15 *s.*

4058. Had he any stock?—He had one cow and five sheep, and I saw in his house a chaff bed.

4059. Did he say that he had fodder for his cow?—He said he had not.

4060. Did you see that family at their meals?—They were in the process of cooking potatoes and sea-weed, and he said that he had used potatoes and sea-weed through the winter.

4061. Was his the last house that you visited on that day?—It was the last house

house I visited on that day, because night was then closing in. We were at that time passing a point of the road where the mountain ranges of the Naghlas, Macought, Muckash, Aragle, and Bloody Foreland are visible.

4062. Now come to the 8th of May; did you visit the townland of Upper Keeldrum on that day?—Yes.

4063. Who was the proprietor of that townland?—I found that Mr. Wybrants Olphert was the proprietor of it.

4064. How many houses did you visit on that day; did you visit 28 houses on that townland?—I was 11 days in the district, and I have not fixed the precise days; but on that and subsequent days I visited 28 houses in that townland; but it is a most extensive tract of country. I visited many more than 28 houses, but I have notes of 28. I visited infinitely more, but there was such a dead level of wretchedness that I gave up making notes of particular cases.

4065. What was the general appearance of the condition of the people?—They were evidently a struggling wretched poor people.

4066. What was the state of their beds and bed-clothes generally?—I must say that it was much the same as those which I have already represented.

4067. Did you see many beds?—No.

4068. Did you visit the house of Daniel M'Cue?—Yes; his wife was sick.

4069. Did you see any furniture in the house?—He had no stock of any description; he paid 4*s.* rent, and 1*s.* 6*d.* sheep tax. This man had received relief, and he had no furniture.

4070. Did you see any food in the house?—He had received some Indian meal; I saw half a hundred-weight of Indian meal in the house, which was given him by the Relief Committee.

4071. What did his family lie on at night; was it a bed or a lair of straw?—It was a lair of straw.

4072. Did you observe the day clothing of the members of that family?—I did; it was cleanly, but ragged and worn out.

4073. Now the case of Hugh Ferny, of the same place?—There were six of a family in this man's house.

4074. Has he any stock?—I do not find it remarked in my notes that he has any stock.

4075. Has he any furniture?—No furniture; nothing that I could call furniture; his rent was 2*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* In these cases, I may say that where the man was within I at all times asked for his receipts, and I examined the receipts, and made notes of the receipts when he was within, and I could obtain them.

4076. Mr. *Dobbs.*] How much land had Daniel M'Cue who paid 4*s.* rent?—I did not inquire.

4077. You do not know how much land he had?—I do not.

4078. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Did you see Daniel M'Cue's receipts?—I have no note on my book that I saw M'Cue's receipts. I stated that whenever the man was at home I asked for the receipts, and I took a note of the receipts; but when he was out the question was put to his wife, or an inmate of the house, and it was her reply that I have in my book.

4079. Mr. *Maguire.*] What was the food of Hugh Ferny's family?—They had about two stone of potatoes, which they had obtained on trust.

4080. Was there a bed in this house, or a mere lair of straw?—A mere lair of straw.

4081. Did you visit the house of Grace Gallagher?—Yes; there was no stock, no furniture, and no food. They had sent to obtain a little meal on trust, and they had been living from hand to mouth, as she said to me.

4082. Did you see any stock in the house?—I saw no stock in the house.

4083. Was there any belonging to any member of this family?—Yes, there were two stirks.

4084. Belonging to whom?—To her daughter; they had been purchased for her by a brother, who lived in Scotland.

4085. What was the rent paid by the owner of this house, as it was stated to you?—£. 1. 16. 4.

4086. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Is Grace Gallagher a widow?—I presume so.

4087. Mr. *Maguire.*] Now take the case of Kate Ferny; how many were there in family in her house?—There were two in family.

4088. Was there food in her house?—No, there was no food in the house.

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4089. What was the character of the day clothing?—They had no shoes, and their dress betokened great indigence.

4090. Were the women of this family sufficiently clothed for the purposes of decency?—They could not wear such clothes either at a fair or a market, or a place of worship.

4091. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What had they on?—They had on a ragged dress of calico, and one of the women had on a drugget, a thing made of wool, a home manufactured sort of petticoat, upon her.

4092. Mr. *Maguire.*] Were the women sufficiently clothed?—They were not naked, but they were not sufficiently dressed.

4093. Did you hear whether those people were able to come to mass on Sunday, or not?—They could not go to church on Sunday.

4094. Did you visit the house of Neal Doogan?—I did.

4095. How many in family had he?—Five.

4096. Was this man in the same circumstances as the others you have mentioned?—He had two stirks, and he paid rent of 1 *l.* 15 *s.*

4097. Was this man considered comfortable?—Yes; he had four sheep, and I have it down that he was a well-off man in comparison with the others.

4098. Did the interior of his house denote anything like what you would consider comfort?—It was certainly the best house in the locality; it had a good slate roof on it, and it was half lofted over, and he said that the proprietor had given him 3 *l.* worth of timber to help him build his house.

4099. Did you visit the house of John M'Creedy?—I did.

4100. Will you describe it?—The house was utterly wretched. There was a corpse in the house, and they had to borrow a table to lay it out upon; there was a little box in the house, and there were blocks of fir for seats; this man had a cow and a calf, but he was very wretched.

4101. Did you inquire as to their food?—I did not; there was no necessity to inquire into that, they were so very wretched.

4102. Did you visit the house of John Gallagher?—I did.

4103. Had he a large family?—He had nine in family.

4104. Was there any furniture in the house?—There was no furniture in it.

4105. Was there a bed?—There was a sort of quilt over a lair of straw.

4106. Did you inquire whether there was a tick or not?—I turned it up, and I saw no tick on it, but there was a good quilt, and a sort of sheet over the lair of straw.

4107. That was for nine in family, was it?—Yes, for nine in family.

4108. With regard to the case of Widow James Whooriskey, have you anything particular to say to the Committee in reference to her case?—Yes; there were seven of a family in this house, the woman was not in; the eldest child was I should say about 13 years of age; she was nursing an infant. I asked where the mother and the father were, and when we asked about the father they began to cry. It appears that the father had famished of hunger and exhaustion in the spring. The little children were gathered almost naked round a few coals on the hearth; the house was about four or five times the length of this umbrella that I have in my hand, and about the same breadth; there was no furniture in the house.

4109. Was there any food in the house?—No food, and no bed. We asked the only one in the family who was sensible of the destitution in which they were, and she began to cry about it. The clergyman with whom I was (the Rev. John Doherty was with me at the time) put inquiries to the child, and I took her answers down. She said that she had been hired in the Laggan with Thomas Owen, of Connabaun, near Londonderry, and she came home after her father's death; and I heard while in the house from the little girl and from the clergyman, that her father had died of destitution on the wayside. This family had obtained Indian meal from the relief committee. Before this they were eating what is called dulamaun.

4110. Come to the house of Bartley Ferry?—There was a stool, a bed of sods and straw, a rug, and a little box; the rent was 16 *s.* and taxes 6 *s.*; this was a wretched hovel; they had got a cow on trust last November, and the man said that he could not get 40 *s.* for her now.

4111. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Had he any land?—Yes.

4112. How much?—I could not say positively.

4113. Have you any idea?—I have no exact idea; I will not speak from memory.

4114. Mr.

4114. Mr. *Maguire.*] Come to the case of Owen M'Cue; how many had he in family?—Five.

4115. Had he any stock?—No stock; he had a calf, which was sold to get meal and pay a balance of the taxes.

4116. What was the state of this man's family?—There was no furniture in the house, and no bed. It is impossible, I say, to picture the condition of these people.

4117. What was the state of their clothing?—Very wretched.

4118. Was it ragged?—More so than in any other case.

4119. Was it sufficient for the purposes of decency?—It was not sufficient for the purposes of covering; the skin was appearing through.

4120. Would you say that it was sufficient for the purposes of decency?—No, certainly not.

4121. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Did you ask what his rent was?—His rent was 16*s.*

4122. Mr. *Maguire.*] How many houses did you visit in that district?—I believe that I visited the majority of those houses; there are 48 in Keeldrum, and I have notes of 19 houses.

4123. If I mistake not, you visited 28 houses?—Yes.

4124. Will you generally describe to the Committee what their condition was; was it such as you have mentioned in the cases of those persons whose names you have given?—Yes, exactly similar.

4125. Their food was bad?—Their food was bad, their clothing wretched, their habitations wretched, and the entire appearance of destitution over the district was unmistakeable.

4126. Did you hear who was the landlord of these people of Keeldrum?—I presume it was Mr. Wybrants Olphert.

4127. Are you perfectly certain that you have given an accurate description of the state of those people to the Committee?—I have stated exactly what I saw, what came under my observation; and here are my notes, and I have laboured to condense the notes.

4128. Are the Committee to understand that in each case you made minute inquiry as to the state of the family?—I made minute inquiry into every case that I have stated, and all that are entered in this note-book.

4129. Did you examine the state of the food?—I was not satisfied with asking, but I went round the houses in some instances, and through the fields in some instances, in order to ascertain if it were possible that they could practise deception.

4130. Did you visit the townland of Fawnaboy on the same day?—It was within those 10 days that I was in the district.

4131. Who is the landlord?—I cannot say; I have not a note of that.

4132. Is it not near Keeldrum?—It is near Keeldrum; it is the next townland, I believe.

4133. Did you visit the house of James M'Cue?—I passed along the range of hills; the townlands verged on each other.

4134. Did you visit the house of James M'Cue?—Yes; he had six in family.

4135. Is he the occupier of a new cut?—Yes; he pays 1 *l.* rent. He had a cow; he said he had no potatoes for the last six months.

4136. What did he live upon; did he use seaweed?—They had been using sea-weed and trust meal.

4137. Did you examine whether he had a bed or not?—It was a lair of straw, as I have described, covered with a sort of rug.

4138. What was the clothing of the family?—The man had a sort of corduroy trousers upon him.

4139. Was the clothing generally good or bad?—Very wretched.

4140. Was the clothing of the women sufficient?—Certainly not, not in any civilised country.

4141. Did you go to the house of Francis Doohan?—I did.

4142. Was he the occupier of a new cut?—Yes, he paid 1 *l.* rent, and he paid 1 *l.* on entering into possession of the new cut.

4143. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Was that a fine on coming in?—Yes, a fine on coming in to the Black Bog.

4144. Mr. *Maguire.*] What kind of land was it?—The better portions of it are barren like the dried-up bed of a river, rocky and boggy; in fact, a person going into one of those new cuts is manufacturing land out of the elements.

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4145. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What do you mean by elements?—I mean the natural bog and rock, the bog and the sand, by throwing up the subsoil and intermingling the two, and, by burning it, they raise a little surface on it.

4146. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was it very miserable?—It was very miserable.

4147. Did that man say anything as to any other mode of employment?—He said he would be glad to get labour at 8*d.* a day.

4148. Did you visit Keeldrum again?—I did; I visited Keeldrum on the 11th of May.

4149. Did you visit the house of Darby Curran?—I visited the house of Darby Curran.

4150. How many children were there in that house?—Nine.

4151. Had they a bed?—They lay by the fire upon a bed.

4152. Had they any food?—They had no store of food.

4153. Was that a house or a hovel?—It was just like those which I have described.

4154. What rent did he pay?—He paid 1*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* rent.

4155. What furniture was there in the house?—I could say that there was a box, an old dresser, two stools in the place, and a wheel.

4156. Take the case of John M'Ginley; did you go into his house?—Yes, I went into the house of John M'Ginley.

4157. How many were there in family?—Nine in family; his rent was 2*l.* 10*s.*, taxes 18*s.* 9*d.*; this is a little square, but he had no furniture save a cradle, a shake-down, a creel, a dresser, and a barrel, and he had had no potatoes since January.

4158. Was there any stock belonging to this man?—No, only a donkey.

4159. Had any member of the family any stock?—At this point, I should say in walking along the fields, the sister of John M'Ginley followed the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden and me, to say that she had a heifer which she did not tell us of.

4160. Were they anxious to give you full information?—So anxious that she followed us four or five fields over.

4161. Did you go to the townland of Rock Town or Ballinacraig?—I did.

4162. Who is the landlord; is it Mr. Wybrants Olphert?—I assume so.

4163. Did you visit the house of Michael Sheridan?—I did.

4164. Is he the occupier of a new cut?—He is, and he is an improving man.

4165. What is his rent?—£. 1. 5*s.*

4166. What had it been?—It had been 10*s.* He was literally stubbing stones out of the land, with indefatigable toil, and the portion of the land that he had cultivated was cultivated like a garden.

4167. Mr. *Dobbs.*] How much land had he?—I should say he had about half an acre cultivated at that time.

4168. Do you know how much he had altogether?—I do not know exactly, although I saw it.

4169. Mr. *Maguire.*] At what time of the day did you visit him?—About one o'clock.

4170. Were they at their meals?—They were at their meals.

4171. Was it the first or second meal that they had had that day?—They said it was the first meal which they had had that day.

4172. What was it?—There were two women, an infant, and the man sitting round a little basket of potatoes; and in the centre of the basket of potatoes was a bowl of salt and water into which they were dipping the potatoes.

4173. Did you visit the house of Edward Doogan in Rocktown?—I did.

4174. How many were there in family?—There were five in family.

4175. Had he a bed?—One bed, a sort of lair; the rest of them lay by the fire on the earthen floor. The father and mother, and two sons, one 19 years old, lay in the same bed.

4176. What was their condition?—The house was about 15 feet by 18; there was a tub, a chair, a basket, a box, a stool, and a pot in the house; the rent was 2*l.* 11*s.*; he had not three acres of land to the best of my opinion.

4177. Will you come now to the house of William Sweeney, and describe his circumstances?—The rent was 10*s.* There was a clean looking bed in this house.

4178. Was there any stock?—There was no cow nor sheep; the door was composed of woven rods; the house was about 7 feet by 10 feet; there was a capital bed in this house.

4179. Had this man any food?—No, he had not any food; they were working at trenching up the land for sowing potatoes.

4180. Passing over a number of other houses which you visited, come now to the townland of Ardsbeg, that is Mr. Wybrants Olphert's property, is it not?—Yes.

4181. Come to the house of James Boyle; is he an occupier of one of the new cuts?—Yes; he is the occupier of a new cut.

4182. Did he pay entrance-money?—He said that before he put a spade in it he had to pay entrance-money, and the landlord said that the best way to make him industrious was to put a good smart rent upon him.

4183. What rent has he to pay, or does he pay?—I do not know the rent; but this is a copy of a memorandum by the landlord: "I have given Hugh Boyle the cut of land, next Hugh M'Annly, in Ardsbeg; he has to pay 1 *l.* 10 *s.* yearly; dated this 21st day of 1857, *W. Olphert.*"

4184. Mr. Olphert then is the landlord of this man?—Yes; that is copied from a memorandum in the man's possession.

4185. Was there a young child in this house?—Yes, there was.

4186. Was the child in a cradle?—It was not; it was being rocked in a creel, that is a turf basket.

4187. Did you visit Keeldrum again?—I did.

4188. Did you visit a number of houses in Keeldrum?—I did.

4189. Would the description which you gave of the houses, that you have particularised, apply to those that you visited again on this townland?—It would.

4190. Did you visit next the townland of Baltoney?—Yes.

4191. Is that Mr. Wybrants Olphert's property also?—Yes, Baltoney is Mr. Olphert's property.

4192. Did the people generally complain of the mountain having been taken away from them?—They did, without exception.

4193. Did they attribute their poverty to that as one of the principal causes?—Yes.

4194. How many houses did you visit on this townland of Baltoney?—A great number of houses.

4195. Did you visit Mr. Nixon's estate?—I visited Mr. Nixon's estate.

4196. Did you visit the townland of Ray?—Yes; I did.

4197. How many houses did you visit on this townland; did you visit, in fact, as many as 24 on it?—I did.

4198. Have you notes, describing the state of 24 families?—I have notes.

4199. Was there a complaint made by the people on this townland of there being duty days?—There was.

4200. What did they say?—They said they were continually giving three days in the year, or 2 *s.* 6 *d.* for duty days.

4201. If they did not work on three days in the year, they were compelled to pay the landlord 2 *s.* 6 *d.* in lieu of labour, at the rate of 10 *d.* a day?—Yes.

4202. Did they complain that they were compelled to pay the taxes?—They did.

4203. Even though they were valued under 4 *l.*?—They did.

4204. You say that you visited 24 houses in the townland of Ray?—I did.

4205. Will you describe to the Committee generally what was the appearance of those houses; what was the condition of the people, and what was the state of their food, clothing and bedding?—The condition of the people was similar to that which I have already described as prevailing in the other districts that I visited. It would be utterly impossible for me to draw a comparison or difference between them; the people were in the same condition of struggle as those I have already described.

4206. Were the houses squalid or comfortable?—Some of them were wretchedly squalid, and some of them were comparatively comfortable.

4207. What was the state of the clothing of the people?—It varied in the same degree.

4208. What was their condition as to bedding and bed clothes?—It varied just the same as those that I have already described.

4209. Had the majority of the people beds, or lairs of straw?—The majority had no beds whatever.

4210. Of that fact you satisfied yourself by personal inspection?—Of that fact I satisfied myself by personal inspection. They continually repeated their sorrow and regret for their old proprietor.

4211. Who was their old proprietor?—Mr. Copeland.

 4212. Did

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4212. Did they think that they had been injured by the taking away of the mountain?—They said that they were ruined.

4213. Did they state that their rents had been increased, or lowered?—They said they had been increased.

4214. Did you visit any other townlands?—Yes, the skirts of the townlands.

4215. Did you perceive any difference between the state of the people in 1858 and 1854 or 1855?—I think there was an increasing destitution; drawing a comparison with what I had seen in 1854 and 1855, of the locality I then visited, I I think there was an increased destitution; I think that they are going gradually downwards; they are sliding out of the possession of the land.

4216. Do you think that it is scarcely possible that the condition of these people could be worse than that which you saw and have described?—If they had not been sustained by relief, they must have either famished or have gone, in the course of time, in the aggregate to the workhouse; they could not have maintained their homes, in my opinion.

4217. Is there anything as to the state of the people that has not been elicited in your examination that you wish to state to the Committee?—No; I do not know beyond this, that they are a peaceable and mild people, and I thoroughly agree, from the inquiries that I made, with the representation that was made of them by Mr. Nicholl to the Home Secretary.

4218. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] You have had great experience in Ireland?—I have; I have travelled a great deal in Ireland.

4219. Do you consider that this is the worst district you have ever seen?—It is the most destitute district I have ever seen.

4220. How long does your experience in Ireland date?—I was born in Ireland.

4221. How long have you paid attention to the subject of the condition of the people?—Since 1847.

4222. You think that this district was worse than Skibbereen and such districts in 1847?—I was not in Skibbereen in 1847.

4223. Is it your opinion that the cause of this distress is the taking away of the mountain land, or the extreme subdivisions of land?—I believe that the land could not be consolidated for agricultural purposes, because there is no valuable land, at least very little, in the Gweedore district.

4224. You say that a man could not live on one of those new cuts?—He could not unless sustained. It is a struggle for life; it is not life.

4225. Certainly that would point to dividing the land into larger quantities?—It would not point to dividing the mountain land into larger quantities; there is a wide difference between agricultural land and mountain land.

4226. Emigration is, in your opinion, one remedy, is it not?—Yes, security for improvements, such as the peasants would make, in order to give the people some encouragement, this should be done; I believe they would be very peaceable.

4227. Have they any capital?—A man of capital could not cultivate land in he way of reclamation in that district; it would cost from 8*l.* to 10*l.*, and sometimes 11*l.* per acre, and even then it would not be good land; it would not pay for it.

4228. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You say the first time you were there was in 1854-5?—Yes.

4229. You went to inquire after the investment of money for a friend?—I did.

4230. What particular inquiries did you make at that time?—I applied for the rental, and I wrote letters to gentlemen connected with the district, and I have their letters in reply.

4231. Did you visit the houses at that time?—I did.

4232. Did you go through them in the same way as you did this year?—I went through 40 or 50 houses at that period, and was sufficiently satisfied as to the condition of the people.

4233. What was your impression of the place the first time that you visited it in 1854, as compared with your impression the last time you visited it in 1858?—The appearance of the country is the same, but the appearance of destitution among the people has greatly increased.

4234. Are the houses the same?—Certainly.

4235. Are they not worse?—I should say not worse.

4236. Are there more people now, do you think, than there were in 1854?—I cannot say. I have not the census returns.

4237. Did

4237. Did you make any offer for any property at that time?—I did. I offered 5,000*l.* for Mrs. Russell's property.

4238. Was that refused?—It was; not on account of the rental, but on account of a marble quarry that she had some romantic ideas about, and I am heartily glad of it.

4239. Have you made any inquiries about employment for the people?—There is no employment for the people.

4240. Did you make any inquiries about employment the first time you went there?—I did; there was no manufacturing employment, save stocking and flannel making; there was no field labour employment; the farmers did not employ labourers; the principal employer in the district was Lord George Hill, and next to him Mrs. Russell.

4241. How were those people employed; what did they do?—They were employed in cultivating their own little patches of land.

4242. Did you ask anything about the manufacture of kelp?—It did not lie in the district that I visited at that time; there may have been persons on Lower Crawley who were engaged in the kelp manufacture.

4243. Did you make any inquiries as to weaving?—There was stocking knitting and some flannel and drugget making at that time, in 1854-55.

4244. You visited the district between 1854 and 1858, did you not?—I did. I visited it four or five times in all.

4245. You mentioned several persons who had got new cuts; did you inquire as to any of those persons, whether they belonged to the district or were strangers that came from any distant parts?—I recollect only one instance. I cannot tell the name without referring to my notes, the man came from Bloody Foreland.

4246. Was that James M'Ever?—Possibly it may have been so.

4247. You only recollect one such person?—I only recollect one such person in the places I visited.

4248. Then persons belonging to the neighbouring places would take the new cuts?—Yes. I would state to the Committee one circumstance. The parties complained that the landlord had taken a portion of land which cut them off from the mountain, and that as soon as they let out their cattle upon the mountain they committed a trespass upon him, and he proceeded against them on account of this trespass.

4249. The last time you visited them had you those clergymen with you?—I had.

4250. Had you them in 1854?—No; I had no communication with them in 1854 or 1855.

4251. You do not appear to know what quantity of land these people had; did you make any inquiries as to the quantity of land which they held?—I did make inquiries; but the people told me that they had to pay so much a holding, and they did not give me the acreage.

4252. Did you make inquiries as to the alleged destruction of sheep in that district?—I did.

4253. Did they state that there had been any malicious destruction of sheep, or did they deny it?—They said the sheep were stolen; and since then a number of sheep were discovered while the assizes was proceeding at Liffard; a number of sheep discovered on the neighbouring mountain, and there was a man transported at the Liffard assizes for stealing sheep; and those stolen sheep were a portion of those that were said to have been maliciously destroyed.

4254. You mentioned having visited the house of widow James Whoorisky?—Yes. I did.

4255. Did you inquire as to her husband's death?—I did.

4256. Do you know in what month he died?—It was, I assume, in some of the spring months.

4257. Was it in the month of March?—I think it was.

4258. Why should you assume that?—From the fact of his having the wages of his little daughter in his pocket when he died.

4259. How much money had he in his pocket when he died?—16*s.* or 17*s.* I believe.

4260. Do you know how far from home he died?—The man was coming home, I believe; he had the money in his possession to meet the rent; so it was represented to me.

4261. Did you hear any statement as to whether he was drunk or sober at the time he died?—I believe that the man died of inanition.

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4262. Did you hear any statement as to whether he was drunk or sober?—I did not.

4263. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did you hear any statement that he died of inanition?—Yes, I did, and I am certain that I was not misinformed.

4264. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Perhaps you will have the kindness to state what you did hear from the clergyman, from whom you said you heard of his death?—I heard that the man was coming home from some funeral or meeting-place. It is habitual in those parts of the country for the people to meet either at a fair or market or funeral to transact their business. While he was coming home he was taken weak on the wayside, and was taken into the Gweedore Hotel by his neighbours, who gave him a glass of spirits, and on coming out again along the wayside the man died; and I heard, further, that his remains were kept three days uninterred, for the purpose of getting a coroner to hold an inquest over him, but no coroner would come.

4265. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] How do you know that?—It was stated to me.

4266. Lord *Naas.*] What was the name of the coroner of the district?—I do not know.

4267. Who stated it to you?—It was stated to me by one of the clergymen present.

4268. Who?—The Reverend Mr. M'Fadden, or the Reverend John Doherty.

4269. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Was it stated to you that they sent for a coroner and could not get one?—That was the statement; it may be capable of explanation, but that is how I had it.

4270. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You mention that a man named Darby Curran paid 1 *l.* 5*s.* rent?—I did.

4271. Are you aware that he is a national schoolmaster?—I am not.

4272. Who was with you when you visited his house?—Mr. M'Fadden was with me.

4273. He did not inform you of that fact?—I was not informed of that fact.

4274. Nor of the fact that he had a salary?—I was not informed that he had a salary; but even if he had, as national schoolmasters are paid in the country, it was not a very abundant provision.

4275. Mr. *Maguire.*] With regard to this schoolmaster, did you hear that he had been a schoolmaster, but was discharged at that time?—No; that matter has called to my memory something in relation to a schoolmaster who had been discharged from his employment; but whether it attaches to that individual or not, I cannot say.

4276. Did you know whether the man at whose house you visited was in receipt of a salary or not?—I believe he was not in the receipt of a salary.

4277. Was his house poor?—Wretched.

4278. Was relief given to him?—Yes.

4279. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What reason have you to say that you did not know he was in receipt of a salary?—Because that would have been betokened.

4280. Did you make any inquiries?—I made inquiry as to what were the man's means of livelihood.

4281. Was no information given you on the subject of his salary?—No.

4282. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] How do you suppose that those poor people will live until harvest who have neither food nor stock?—I believe they will be sustained by public charity; I certainly think, if relief is withdrawn from them, they will be in a state of famine; I saw 16 tons of meal distributed myself.

4283. Did you make any inquiry, in consequence of the death-like appearance of their faces, as to the state of health of the district?—Yes; I saw tumours in several cases of scrofula; in one case a child's face was disfigured.

4284. Did you hear of any cases of fever arising, as it generally does from low food?—No; but I would ascribe there being no fever to the purity of the air.

4285. You heard of no fever in the district?—No.

4286. Are you aware that there is a fever hospital?—I am aware that there is a fever hospital attached to almost every district in Ireland.

4287. They will not have the same objection to go to a fever hospital as to the workhouse?—I think not, because they uniformly said, when they were recommended to go to the workhouse, that it would be going to their grave.

4288. Did you visit this district during 1846 and 1849, what are called the famine years?—No.

4289. Did you visit any mountainous or wild districts of Ireland at that time?—Yes.

4290. What district was it?—I passed through Connemara in 1848 and 1849.

4291. Did you observe the appearance of the people then?—Yes.

4292. Do you think that their appearance, so far as you could judge, resembled at all the appearance of the people of Gweedore and Cloughaneely now?—I think their destitution is equal with any I ever saw, and in some cases surpasses what I saw in Connemara.

4293. I want to know whether you think that the appearance of the people in Connemara in 1848 and 1849 at all resembled the appearance of the people, so far as you can judge, in Gweedore and Cloughaneely in 1858?—It did.

4294. You think that they look as miserable in Gweedore in 1858 as they did in Connemara in 1848?—They do.

4295. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Did you visit any townland belonging to the Reverend Mr. Stewart?—I passed through some townlands, but I took no notice of them.

4296. Are you aware that upon the Reverend Mr. Stewart's property there was no mountain taken away, no rents increased, and no taxation?—I am not aware of all of those facts, but I am of some of them.

4297. You did not think it necessary, in order to give an impartial statement, to visit this townland?—It was represented to me by the people that the Reverend Mr. Stewart as compared with others was uniformly kind to his tenantry. I visited a townland belonging to Colonel Kennedy, and I would mention that for a comparison.

4298. I am asking you merely the fact, whether you visited this townland or not?—I passed through this townland.

4299. You took no notes?—I did not, because it was uniformly represented to me on all hands that Mr. Stewart was kind to his people, and that the people were not put into a condition of destitution.

4300. Are you aware that they receive in proportion to the size of their property a large quantity of relief?—I believe they do not; there may be exceptional cases. I believe if any person gave them relief on Mr. Stewart's property I was the person who did it, and I will now tell you how it was, if the Committee will permit me.

4301. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] Have you any knowledge of the general value of land in the different districts of Ireland that you have been in?—Yes, I have.

4302. What did you conceive to be the value of Mrs. Russell's estate when you looked at it, at the time it was for sale?—The 6,000 set produced about 80 *l.* or 90 *l.* profit rent. Persons in Ireland expecting to purchase wish to have at least some four or five per cent. for their money, but Mrs. Russell's estate could not be purchased by any person who did not wish to make it his residence; as a summer residence it is worth a great deal more money than as an investment; as a simple investment it is a place of no great value, but as a residence it is a place of value to a person who had a fancy for loneliness.

4303. Was 80 *l.* a year when you saw it, in your opinion the real value of it?—I have told the Committee already that I offered 5,000 *l.* for it as a residence.

4304. With a view to a residence being built upon it?—No; there is a residence on it, and a very pretty church on it, and a school-house, and a glebe house. Money was collected in England, and expended to the amount of 2,000 *l.* on it. I believe that Mr. Russell purchased the estate for 1,300 *l.* or 1,400 *l.* sterling.

4305. You consider that the value is 5,000 *l.*, with the house and all upon it?—Yes.

4306. I wish to know what was the value, per acre, of the land held by those tenants?—She has 4,000 acres in her own hands.

4307. Can you tell me the value, per acre, of the best land on that estate held by some of the tenants?—I should say that the arable portions of it are worth from 2 *s.* to 5 *s.* to 10 *s.* at the outside; it would be close shaving to take that out of the best; no real farmer would give that for it.

4308. Can you state to the Committee how much land one of those men holds who has three cows' grass?—He might hold a good half an acre or an acre of passable arable land.

4309. How much land would he hold altogether?—The land is cut into little zigzag strips, and in reality the arable land on these farms of Mrs. Russell's would be greater if it were reclaimed; the rent is not strictly applicable to the portion of arable land called the farm, but applies to the tenant right over the mountain commonage.

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4310. What is the size of the land that they hold?—Some of them half an acre, and some of them an acre.

4311. A man who has three cows; what would he have?—A man with half an acre might have three cows; he would not keep them on the half acre of arable, but he would keep them on the mountain commonage.

4312. What would he pay for his half acre?—He paid at the rate of three cows' grass for it; sometimes a cow's grass was 15 *s.*; sometimes it was 1 *l.*; he might pay 3 *l.* rent for them or 45 *s.*

4313. That is in addition to the mountain commonage?—Yes.

4314. Can you explain to the Committee what object the people have in having stock upon their estate, belonging to their children, instead of to themselves?—Easily; I believe that a number of persons, male and female, from this locality come down into Tyrone and Londonderry, as farm and house servants, and go over to Scotland and work at the Scotch harvest; it was not unusual to see 1,300 persons on board the Londonderry steamer going to Scotland, before the statute was passed against overcrowding, and when they have earned money in Scotland, or at service, it is remitted to their parents, and they buy those cattle and run them upon those mountains.

4315. How have they any right upon that mountain?—They have it through their parents; I should assume that if a son sends an animal to his father to be fed, if his father pleases to do it he might do it.

4316. The system is that a son or daughter buys a cow, and keeps it as his or her own property, and sends it to the father to graze?—Yes.

4317. Do they pay anything for the grazing of it?—I am not aware.

4318. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] What statute is that which you referred to?—An enactment passed against overcrowding steamers.

4319. You were going on to state how you were distributing relief to the tenantry of the Rev. Mr. Stewart?—The manner in which that was done was this: after I had gone through the Cloughaneely district, a large quantity of relief had been given to certain destitute persons. I then obtained leave to distribute 10 or 16 tons of Indian meal, and I wrote the tickets, "Mr. Moffet, Dunfanaghy, give to bearer half a cwt. of Indian meal." I told such persons as I had met to come to the priest's house at Falcarragh. They came, and I sat down in the yard of the house, and one or two of the priests noted down in a book the names of the people and the number in family that they had; we had had already some prepared lists, and we know whether the statement was overdrawn or not; sometimes I gave two orders, sometimes I refused; 1 cwt. in extreme cases was the extent; half a cwt. of Indian meal was not in price more than 5 *s.*, and for that half cwt. the recipients had to come distances of four, five, and seven miles; they waited there during the greater portion of the day, and they had to go next day with the ticket to Dunfanaghy, which is from 9 to 10 miles distant; so for the half cwt. of Indian meal those people had to travel from 10 to 20 miles and upwards. Some of Mr. Stewart's tenants came and represented their condition, as having large families, and I thought it was a heartless thing when they were in a mass of people, and relief was to be distributed, if it was refused to them, and I thought from their personal appearance that they were fit objects for charity.

4320. Had the clergymen refused to give them relief?—I believe not; the clergymen were always present, and I believe one of them has a book of notes, part of which were taken down in my own handwriting, and part of them by the clergymen. One of the clergymen was obliged to give up the task; but I persevered; we were literally stifled with the people, and I hope I may never see such a mass of misery in my time again in Ireland.

Owen Boyle, called in; and Examined.

Owen Boyle.

4321. Mr. *Maguire*.] WHERE do you live?—At Falcarragh, or Cross Roads, in the county of Donegal.

4322. What is your occupation?—I am a nailer by trade, in the first place.

4323. What are you in the second place?—I keep a shop of china, glass, and earthenware.

4324. Where?—At Falcarragh.

4325. How long have you lived in Cloughaneely district?—I came to it, I think, in March 1841.

4326. About 17 years ago?—Yes.

4327. And

4327. And you have been 17 years there?—Yes.

4328. Are you well acquainted with the people of the district?—I am pretty well acquainted with them.

4329. Have they been dealing with you for a considerable time?—They have, on all occasions.

4330. On whose estate do you live?—Mr. Wybrants Olphert's.

4331. You state that you are a nailer by trade; have you found that your trade was as good last winter as at any former time?—It was not.

4332. Did it fall away?—It did, totally; I have no trade at all; I have a little boy, 17 years of age, who can do all the work that I may require, whereas I used to have two or three men previously.

4333. Had you such a bad year as last year since 1846 or 1847?—I have never had such a bad trade as last winter.

4334. Did you go to Glasgow last September?—Yes.

4335. For what purpose?—I went over and bought some secondhand clothes.

4336. When you brought them over, were they bought up?—They were not.

4337. Were you not able to sell them?—I sold about 10 *l.* worth to the country people, of the cheapest quality and the worst description, but the best clothing that was left on my hands I sold to the relief committee.

4338. Do you know whether sea-weed is used more extensively in that district now than it was previously?—I could not say as to that, but I have seen it used on more occasions this present year; but I was not through the country previously to that.

4339. So far as your knowledge goes, do you think that the people are consuming more than they did before?—On all occasions.

4340. Do you mean at every meal?—Yes, I do; and I state that from information that I got from each and every one of them, because I visited every house in the district.

4341. When did you visit their houses?—I commenced about the fourth day of May.

4342. What was the object of your visit?—I went out with the intention of taking notes of the poverty of the people.

4343. Did you take notes also as to the stock that they had?—I did.

4344. And as to their general condition?—Yes.

4345. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Who sent you?—The parish priest.

4346. Mr. *Maguire.*] You were deputed to go by the parish priest?—I was. There was a gentleman, Mr. Wybrants Olphert, announced to me that I would be brought up to London, and the parish priest therefore sent me out, as I had been along the shore in the capacity of kelp agent; and he then sent me out, in order that I might know the poor districts, as well as those that Mr. Olphert considered to be strong.

4347. Have you known the people of the townlands of Ray and Ballyboe for many years?—I have known them for 30 years.

4348. Whose property are Ray and Ballyboe?—They are the property of the Rev. Alexander Nixon at present.

4349. Were those people formerly comfortable and well drest?—I have known them to be so.

4350. How many years since?—I have known them for 30 years. I had been occasionally going there when there were mines there, 30 years and over.

4351. Were they comfortably drest previously to 1846?—Yes, with their own manufacture.

4352. That is to your own knowlege?—That is to my own knowledge.

4353. What has their condition been since then?—It has been bad.

4354. What is their condition now?—Their condition is very bad with respect to clothing and food.

4355. Would the same remark apply to Stroughan?—Yes, the same.

4356. Who is the landlord of Stroughan?—The Rev. Alexander Nixon.

4357. When taking the stock in the townland of Stroughan, did you go to the house of Owen M'Award?—Yes.

4358. What family has he?—He has five children.

4359. Were his children covered?—There were four children naked. I might say totally naked. There was one child of three years old lying naked, the same as the moment he was born; it had no clothing of any description; it was lying asleep by the fire.

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4360. Had they a bed?—No; they were lying on the hearth flag of the fire.

4361. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Was there a fire?—There was a kind of a fire.

4362. Mr. *Maguire.*] What was the clothing of the wife?—The wife had no clothing; but on my approach to the door, I considered that she got an old rug in the house, such as a beggar man would pull out of his common potato bag, as I have seen beggars carrying them, and she put it round her nakedness while I was getting into the house, and she had it round her knees and round her body.

4363. Did that woman rise off her seat afterwards?—No, not in my presence.

4364. What was the object of her not rising off her seat?—I could not account for it in any other way than her nakedness, and that she did not wish to be seen in that condition.

4365. What was the dress of the children?—The children had no dress but a small bit round their waist, and going down partly over their thigh, in a torn and ragged way; there was nothing on their arms, and I saw their armpits and their shoulders bare.

4366. Was that man a tenant of Mr. Nixon?—He was.

4367. What rent did he pay?—I do not exactly know what his rent was; but took an account of the rents, and I saw their receipts to know whether they were tenants or not.

4368. Was he one of those who gave duty days to the landlord?—He was.

4369. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Had he much land?—I could not say how much land; it is a kind of new cut that he holds, at 3*s.* 6*d.* per acre.

4370. Had he been long there?—I could not say how long, but I knew him for a length of time; but I did not know on what townland he lived till that time.

4371. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is it in this neighbourhood that a man lives whose name is M'Kimm?—He lives in a townland called Calhame.

4372. Who is the landlord?—The Rev. Mr. Nixon.

4373. Was your attention called to the case of this man?—I was passing by, when he came to me on the road, and asked me for God's sake to get some relief from the priest. I asked him if he was in need of it, and he said he had no clothing; I asked him if he had a bed, and he said, "Come, and you will see;" I went in, in company with him and with another man; and when I went into the house I saw the sides of an old press upon the floor; I saw a spoon upon what I call the hobstone of the fire, a small pot about half a stone size; and I saw a litter of straw in a corner, where he and a heifer, as he described, lay without either clothes or anything else for seven months.

4374. Did he have no bed but that litter of straw?—He had not; there was nothing whatever belonging to him but what I have mentioned.

4375. Why did he lie with the heifer?—He had no other means of keeping himself warm in the cold and snowy weather, during the spring and the winter.

4376. Was there anything in the pot?—There was nothing whatever; but it seemed to have had some Indian meal in it previously.

4377. What kind of a house was it?—There were 25 holes in the roof, and there was no door in it.

4378. You would scarcely say that man was living in a state of comfort?—No; the man himself had very bad clothing on.

4379. Did you take the stock in the townland of Ray?—I did.

4380. How did you do that?—By taking it from one house to another; I went from house to house.

4381. Did you inquire as to the stock that they had previously to 1846, and their stock at present?—I did, with every attention.

4382. What is the result of your inquiries as to the stock in the townland of Ray?—In Ray there are 44 families; that I visited in the townland.

4383. Did you visit the houses of those 44 families?—I did.

4384. Lord *Naas.*] Were they all inhabitants of this townland?—They were.

4385. You did not leave one unvisited?—No; I visited them all. I paid three visits to all Mr. Nixon's estate.

4386. Mr. *Maguire.*] With regard to the townland of Ray, does this return which you give in of the cattle include every beast in the townland, to the best of your opinion?—I have it as the people gave it to me.

4387. As well as you have it, tell the Committee what was the amount of their former

former stock?—In the calculation that I have taken I have included calves and heifers, and called them cows. The number in Ray formerly were 208 cows.

4388. In what year?—In 1846. There were also 467 sheep, 41 horses, and 32 pigs.

4389. What is their stock now?—Their present stock is 32 cows, 33 sheep, 14 horses, and 12 pigs.

4390. That shows a decrease, does it not, of 176 cows, 434 sheep, 27 horses, and 20 pigs?—Yes.

4391. Did you take the stock in the townland of Ballyhoe?—Yes, I did.

4392. Did you go to every house the same as in the former case?—Yes, I did.

4393. Did you get your information from the people themselves?—Yes, from the population.

4394. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Did you count the stock yourself?—I got it from the people.

4395. Did you see it?—I saw some of them, because I happened to come round about 12 in the day, and I saw the stock in the house, and if any one had a milk cow, they were about to milk her at that time; but they generally all told me what their stock were at the present time.

4396. Mr. *Maguire.*] In any cases did you test the accuracy of the people by your own inspection?—I did on two occasions, and I found the statements correct.

4397. You found the statements in those particular cases correct, and you infer that the information that you received in other cases was correct also?—As far as I believe.

4398. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What was your means of information as to the stock in 1846 and 1847?—I just asked them, and the people told me; some of the people told me what stock they had formerly, in 1846 and 1847, and they told me what they had in 1858, and I took it down correctly in figures.

4399. Mr. *Maguire.*] Will you refer to your return of stock in the townland of Ballyboe; what was their former stock?—Their former stock, previous to 1847, was 147 heifers and calves, 516 sheep, 43 horses, and 96 pigs.

4400. Now give the amount of their present stock?—Their present stock is, 54 cows, calves, and heifers, 73 sheep, 17 horses, and four pigs.

4401. Showing a decrease of 93 cows, 443 sheep, 26 horses, and 92 pigs?—Yes.

4402. Was it about 1846 and 1847, do you mean?—About that time, and when they had the mountain pasture, and the liberty to put their cows on the mountains.

4403. Lord *Naas.*] How did you arrive at this information with regard to the quantity of stock in 1846?—The people told me, each man and each woman, as I went through the houses, and the one agreed with the other; the husband agreed with the wife, and the wife agreed with the husband, with regard to their former stock in 1846, 1847, and 1848, or thereabouts, those three years; I got it as correct as people's memory could recollect on all occasions.

4404. That is 12 years ago; are they mostly the same people living there now that were living there then?—Mostly the same.

4405. Has there been no change?—On some occasions there might be; the father might die, and the mother might be alive.

4406. When you say 1846, 1847, and 1848, which year do you really mean?—Perhaps they did not know the year by that kind of way, but I remarked, "Did they remember the year that the broth was given," and they said "Yes."

4407. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was there relief given to the people in soup about the years 1847 and 1848?—There was.

4408. Was it given later than that time?—I could not exactly say; I kept no dates.

4409. Did you take an account of the stock in the townland of Stroughan?—Yes.

4410. Give me a list of all the stock?—There are 28 families in Stroughan, numbering in all 135 souls; their former stock was 80 cows, 148 sheep, 17 horses, and 16 pigs.

4411. What is the present stock?—Their present stock is 21 cows, 27 sheep, five horses, and one pig.

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4412. That shows a decrease of 59 cows, 121 sheep, 12 horses, and 15 pigs?—Yes.

4413. Did you take the stock of the townland of Calhame?—Yes, I did, in the same way.

4414. What was the result of your inquiry?—There were seven families in it; numbering 23 individuals altogether; their former stock was 68 cows, including cows, calves, and heifers, 56 sheep, seven horses, and 31 pigs.

4415. What is their present stock?—Their present stock is 25 cows, 32 sheep, 6 horses, and 8 pigs.

4416. Showing a reduction of 43 cows, 24 sheep, 1 horse, and 23 pigs?—Yes.

4417. Did you take the stock in the townland of Tullaghobeghy Irish?—Yes.

4418. Did you take it in the same way, by going from house to house?—In the very same way.

4419. What was their stock previous to 1846?—Their former stock was 206 cows, 402 sheep, 30 horses, and 61 pigs.

4420. What is their present stock?—Their present stock is 65 cows, 86 sheep, 15 horses, and 2 pigs.

4421. Showing a decrease of 141 cows, 316 sheep, 15 horses, and 59 pigs?—Yes.

4422. Now with regard to the townland of Dunmore; did you take the stock there?—I did.

4423. Will you give the result of your inquiry?—Their former stock was 337 cows, 895 sheep, 59 horses, and 43 pigs; their present stock is 89 cows, 86 sheep, 11 horses, and 10 pigs.

4424. Showing a decrease of 246 cows, 809 sheep, 48 horses, and 33 pigs?—Yes; there are 73 families in that townland, numbering in all 337 souls.

4425. How many families are there in the six townlands?—I have not added them together, but I can give that separately, if the Committee wish; there are 73 in Dunmore.

4426. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Is this all Mr. Nixon's property?—Yes, it is; I think that I visited 230 families in the whole, including Dunmore and all.

4427. Was a portion of that Lord Leitrim's property?—There are two Dunmores belongs to Leitrim.

4428. Did you make a minute examination of the entire of this townland?—As near as I possibly could.

4429. Did you inquire into the condition of the people?—I did, on all occasions.

4430. What was the result of your inquiry?—I found them miserable in Dunmore.

4431. Did you find them to be more miserable than you had ever known the people to be before?—A great deal. I did not expect that there was such distress existing till I paid the visits; even in the case of those that came to me on all occasions, dealing for earthenware and nails, and other things, I did not calculate upon the people's poverty till I visited their houses, until I saw it myself.

4432. What was the condition of their bedding in those six townlands?—Their bedding was very bad.

4433. What was it?—There were 20 chaff beds in Dunmore, what I would call old chaff beds; the rest were not worth calling beds for pigs, because the straw was broken. On many occasions they had to lift the straw from the floor, each morning to air it, and on lifting it up it breaks away and becomes a kind of straw; it is not equal to a straw bed.

4434. What covering had they at night?—Very bad; some had an old blanket with a great number of patches, and pieces of flannel sewed on to the blanket; others had no blanket at all; some were lying under a piece of old sack, and some were lying with an old coat or a woman's old petticoat, where the blanket was not sufficient to cover them.

4435. Did you go at any time into the houses when the family were lying down?—No; but I examined the house, and when I saw a chest I opened it, and on all occasions I left no barrels unopened, so that any persons could say that they had anything without my knowledge.

4436. You made a most comprehensive and minute scrutiny, and went into every house?—I did, as much so as any man could.

4437. Is it your opinion that the people are worse or as badly off this year as they

they were in the time of the famine?—I never knew them to be as bad as this year, because I never went out to examine them.

4438. Why do not the people go to the workhouse?—They will not go.

4439. Why will not they go?—It is a notion of the people; what is the reason I could not assign, but they told me that if they went into the workhouse they would be sure to die from the bad treatment, and all the idea I could get from them was, that you might as well send amongst them a regiment of Scots Greys as an order for the workhouse for the creatures to go into it; they told me, each of them, when I told them to go into the workhouse, "We will never go there till we die."

4440. Had many people from that district died in the workhouse in 1847?—Yes, there had; I could not say how many.

4441. Some had died, had there not?—A great many; it is customary in our country to have a funeral, and I saw the people coming from the workhouse.

4442. I suppose they died from what is called the famine fever?—They did.

4443. Did some from the district die?—Yes, they did, and their remains were sent for and brought over to their own country again, and that scared the rest.

4444. And the people have been frightened ever since, have they?—Yes, because so many died at that time.

4445. Is that the reason why they do not go into the workhouse at present?—That is the reason they assign for their fear that they will die there, and they would do anything sooner than die in the workhouse.

4446. Do you mean that there is a general aversion on the part of the people to go to the workhouse, however destitute they may be?—Yes, there is; they told me that they would die behind a ditch sooner than go there.

4447. They have an aversion to go to the workhouse?—Yes.

4448. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] It is not the operation of the Gregory clause—that is the clause as to giving up their land—that prevents them?—No; those that have no land feel the same, and even beggars, when they have come to me to get a ticket to the priest for meal, and I have told them to go to the workhouse, have said to me, "We will make out as well as we can, and should we die we cannot help it. We will not go to the workhouse."

4449. The Committee have been told over and over again that the reason why they did not go into the workhouse was through the fear of giving up their land; you do not agree with that, do you?—I do agree with it for those holding small pieces of land.

4450. Mr. *Dobbs.*] The same feeling exists among those who have no land, as well as those that have?—Yes, those that have land will not give up their small pieces as long as they are able to hold them on, and those that have no land are afraid to go into the workhouse.

4451. Mr. *Maguire.*] Those that do hold land endeavour to struggle on as long as they can?—They do.

4452. Would they submit to any kind of privation rather than give up their land?—They would do anything at all sooner than give up their land.

4453. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Are there any people from that district in the workhouse?—I did not keep any account; I do not know to my own knowledge.

4454. Do you know anything about the wages in the district?—I do not know much about it; I have heard from one that is generally working all along, that 10 *d.* a day is the general wages of a man there, without meat and drink; I know men working at that.

4455. At what time of the year?—The month of May of the present year; the last month; about half-a-mile from where I live.

4456. Are there any such wages in the district as 2 *s.* a day?—Not to my knowledge.

4457. What is given for turf cutting?—All that I can account for is that I have heard men say that they got 15 *d.* and 1 *s.* a day for cutting turf.

4458. You are certain that there are no such wages as 2 *s.* a day, except at turf cutting?—Yes.

4459. Is there any scarcity of labourers?—None; there are plenty if they had employment; they could get plenty of labourers in Dunmore, if they had any ground to drain, or any other kind of work.

4460. Did you ever find any unwillingness on the part of the people to be employed at 10 *d.* a day?—I never heard of a man refusing employment at 10 *d.* a day.

Owen Boyle.

18 June 1858.

4461. You are a kelp agent, are you not?—I was last year.

4462. Are you not now?—I was not employed this year.

4463. Did you purchase any quantity for the year 1856?—I did; between 600 *l.* and 700 *l.* worth.

4464. That is along the shores of Gweedore and Cloughaneely? — Yes, including the islands.

4465. What amount did you purchase in 1857, last year?—It did not amount to 200 *l.*

4466. Is there much appearance of buyers of kelp this year?—There is not one who has appeared on the strand, or the islands, or any other place.

4467. What is the reason for that?—I could not assign the reason more than what occurred to me, that it was through the transaction that happened in Tory Island last year.

4468. What was that? — I did not take an account of the day, but I went there one day last summer, and there was a man there that acted as the agent for Mr. Woodhouse, the landlord of Tory Island. I went in the evening, and the next morning when I got up I saw a notice posted on the kelp-store door, wherein my employer had kelp stored, James Doogan being the agent to him.

4469. Do you think that the seizure of the kelp had a prejudicial effect upon the kelp market?—My own employer told me that it would hurt the country at large; it would prevent him from buying any more.

4470. Who was your employer?—He was a Mr. Montague, a Scotchman.

4471. Was he an agent for a Scotch house?—Yes, for Mr. Pattison, the most extensive merchant on our coast.

4472. Lord *Naas.*] Has he been in the country again this year?—No.

4473. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Has the season come for kelp yet?—It commenced the 1st of May, near two months ago.

4474. Lord *Naas.*] Has any one come to the country to buy kelp?—Not one.

4475. Has no kelp buyer come to the district this year?—Not one to my knowledge, and if they had come I should have known of it.

4476. Mr. *Dobbs.*] In what month did that affair take place about the kelp on Tory Island last year?—I could not remember at the present time; I could not say whether it was in August or in May, but I think it was in May. I think it was about the 15th of August; I am positive of it.

4477. Mr. *Maguire.*] Can you give an idea of what a man could earn making kelp?—He generally could make from 10 *d.* to 1 *s.* one day with another during the season, when he would sell his little lump of kelp.

4478. Would that leave him at the rate of 10 *d.* or 1 *s.* a day upon the average?—Yes, providing he got sea-weed to make the kelp of.

4479. Is not it rather a precarious crop?—It is.

4480. Do the men earn much more than 1 *s.* a day?—I have not known them, except on some occasions; there might be a chance out of a hundred that they would be able to make a ton inside of a month, and it might be four months that they could not make more than a ton.

4481. Do you know Police-constable Thompson, of Cross Roads?—I do.

4482. Has he been going through the district of Cloughaneely lately?—He has.

4483. Has he been taking the stock of the people?—I was informed so. I was not with him in any house, but I saw him through the country.

4484. Did you see him driving through the country?—I saw him come one evening driving in a car.

4485. Who was with him?—The Rev. Mr. Nixon was driving him.

4486. Have you heard from the people themselves that the constable has been taking an account of the stock that they have?—I have.

4487. Do you know anything about the case of James Boyle, as to the manner in which an account was given of the cattle which James Boyle, of Procklish, had?—James Boyle lives in Meenaboll, but I understand it is the same James Boyle.

4488. I want to know in what manner the account of the cattle that that man had was taken by the constable?—I had it from the man and his wife; the father and mother were absent at a funeral; and the son and the rest of the small children were at home; the son was 17 years of age, and the constable and one of his men went to him, and told him that the landlord was going to supply them with timber for cow-houses, or a cow-house; and in order that they would give him the number

number of stock, he said, "The more you give in the more timber shall you get;" and the boy gave in a wrong number, which they had not at all, in order to get a larger quantity of timber.

4489. What did the boy give in?—The boy gave in, as near as I recollect, I heard it was seven milk cows, fourteen head of sheep, to the best of my opinion, and twelve goats, and two horses.

4490. What stock has that man?—I saw the stock myself; I was there about what we call in our country milking time of day, and I saw the cows and heifers, five in number; I saw a little bull outside the door, and I asked if the bull was James Boyle's, and he said that the bull belonged to another party, but he had him on hire; five were all that he had of his own, and no more.

4491. How many sheep had he?—The number of sheep, I think, was seven; it was an odd number.

4492. At any rate, from your inquiries this family had not the amount of stock which they say the boy returned to the constable?—Nothing like it.

4493. You heard that statement from the father and mother and the boy himself?—I did, from the father and mother, and the children supported them, that the constable told them so, and he told it on all occasions round the country.

4494. Who is the landlord of this Boyle?—The Rev. Mr. Nixon.

4495. Did you hear anything about the case of Jack M'Gee?—I did. Jack M'Gee told me the very same; that he was from home, and the constable came to his daughter, and said that the fever was getting ripe through the country, and that there was an order to put the cows out of the dwelling-house, and that the landlord was going to give them a quantity of timber to build cow-houses; and he said, "Now give me the number of your stock, and according to your stock you will get timber from Mr. Nixon;" and therefore the girl gave in a wrong number.

4496. What did she give in?—I think it was 10 cows, but I cannot exactly say; I know what Jack M'Gee, the father, told me 10.

4497. What stock had he?—I think the stock was three cows.

4498. It was not 10 or 12 cows?—No, it was only three, because I was in the house myself after the constable had been there.

4499. Did you hear from the people that the constable had done the same in other instances?—I did, on all occasions on that part of the mountain.

4500. They had been led to believe, that the more stock they gave an account of the better it would be for them?—Yes. I know that the constable was in the town of Stroughan, and he only visited two houses, and he took the amount of stock of the whole cattle.

4501. Was it on the Rev. Mr. Nixon's property and in his car that you saw this constable?—Yes; I saw the Rev. Mr. Nixon driving him into the village in which I reside.

4502. There was a man named Daniel O'Donnel, of Stroughan, mentioned yesterday, and it is said that he was relieved once; was he relieved more than once?—I relieved him once myself. I gave him a ticket with his name, and addressed it from the Treasurer of the Relief Committee for a half cwt. of meal to a grain merchant at Dunfanaghy, by the authority of one of the clergymen.

4503. That man was relieved a second time?—Yes, it was Mr. Underwood, the witness before me, wrote a ticket with the man's name upon it.

4504. What would be the condition of the people, in your opinion, if relief were not distributed to them in the shape of food and clothing?—If the relief stops my own opinion would be, that a great many of them would suffer from starvation; because I do not know of any means whatever for their support, for they have no money at the present time to buy provisions with, and I have observed on all occasions (and I have taken it down as correctly as I possibly could), every place that they could have any provision stored in. I saw none on any occasion, therefore I cannot account how they will support themselves if they do not get some relief.

4505. With regard to the taking away of the mountain pasturage, do you think that the people suffer much from that?—It was what I called the cry of the poor people in general everywhere that they would have some clothes to wear at night-time and to wear at day-time if they had the grass to put the sheep on as they had formerly, because if they wanted anything to pay the rent or the taxes with before, or anything to eat, they had nothing to do but to bring a few sheep to market or a cow and dispose of it, but they have got neither now.

4506. Did they provide themselves with wool before?—Yes, on all occasions their own manufactures of stockings, and breeches, and grey coats; it was all their own manufacture; but they have not the means at present. Some have a little stock yet, and they generally keep them for the home-made coats and stockings.

4507. Do they complain of the rent having been raised?—Some of them do.

4508. Do you say to the Committee that the people on those townlands were comfortable before?—They all told me so, and I know myself that they were.

4509. From your own remembrance of the condition of the people ten years ago, do you say that they were comfortable then?—I do; I know them to be comfortable; I knew them before the Rev. Mr. Nixon was the landlord to be comfortable.

4510. Do you say that the taking away of the mountain was a great loss to the people?—It was.

4511. Could the people put as many cattle on the mountain as they wished?—They could.

4512. Wherever you have gone, you have heard, you say, one general cry as the taking away of the mountain, complaining of it?—It was their whole complaint.

4513. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] With regard to Owen M'Award's case, at the place where you found all the people naked, what is he?—He is a man that burns lime, and he is a tenant also.

4514. Has he been a good deal employed in the last few months by the neighbouring landlords?—I could not say.

4515. You do not know whether he has received any money or not lately for labour?—I could not say; I see him miserably passing up and down, without any clothes fit to come out in decency.

4516. Has this man been burning lime lately for his landlord?—Not to my knowledge.

4517. In the last 12 months did he do work to any extent for a neighbouring landlord?—I could not say.

4518. Were you not in the neighbourhood?—I could not say; I made no inquiry as to that.

4519. Now as to Daniel O'Donnel, the man whose relief was stopped, why was he refused relief?—I do not know that it had been stopped; I know that Daniel O'Donnel came to me, and asked me if I would give him some meal from the relief committee, and he told me that he had got 400 lbs. of oatmeal.

4520. You know nothing about his relief having been stopped?—No, nor I do not believe it, for I gave it myself.

4521. Mr. *Maguire.*] Are the people charged for burning lime?—They are charged 2 *s.* 6 *d.*

4522. Even though they burn it in their own kiln?—They are; I am led to believe by the people, on all occasions, a kiln of lime pays a duty of 2 *s.* 6 *d.*

4523. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You are the agent of Mr. Montague for this kelp, are you not?—Yes, for the kelp last year.

4524. How much kelp was in that store at Tory Island last year?—I could not say exactly the number of tons; James Doogan was the agent; I was the agent on the mainland, and he was the agent on the island.

4525. Have you any idea how much there was?—There might have been 40 tons, or there might not; but I should think it was somewhere thereabouts.

4526. You are the agent for the mainland?—I was; but there were more than me.

4527. How much of it passed through your hands last year, coming from the mainland?—I bought 26 tons and 14 cwt. last season.

4528. With regard to this family of Boyle, who made a false statement as to the number of cows, were they well off?—I think they were pretty well off.

4529. They had a good many milch cows, had they not?—No; but I would consider him not in any kind of distress by any appearance.

4530. How were Jack M'Gee's family off?—I think that Jack M'Gee was very well off. I would consider him to be pretty well off; not anything remarkably poor.

4531. Did either Jack M'Gee's family or Boyle's family get relief?—Not to my knowledge; they did not ask it from me.

4532. You talk of the year of the sheep-tax; what was that levied for?—Jack M'Gee told me that he paid 5 *l.* rent and 3 *l.* sheep tax.

4533. What

4533. What was it levied for?—It was levied for the destruction of the sheep on Gweedore and other mountains surrounding.

4534. How were those sheep destroyed?—I could not account for it.

4535. Do you think that they were destroyed purposely?—I could not say; some of them might take a sheep away, and hunger might have caused it; and I allow that many poor creatures might steal a sheep to eat it; but I could not say anything else.

4536. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Did you make any returns of the number of cattle except on Mr. Nixon's property?—I confined myself to the Rev. Mr. Nixon's and the Earl of Leitrim's.

4537. You did not go over Lord George Hill's estate?—No; I was allowed to go on other gentlemen's estates, but I told them I would not go there.

4538. Did you go to Mr. Stewart's property?—No; nor Mr. Wybrants Olphert's, nor Lord George Hill's.

4539. How far do you live from the Rev. Mr. Nixon's property?—I live within a short mile of it.

4540. In making those returns, and calculating the number of cattle, did you or the people make any deduction from the whole stock, supposing that their children had any cattle?—If any of the children had them I did not hear any remark more than this, that on two or three, or perhaps four occasions, I recollect some man said, "there are so many cows in this house; but so many of them belong to my two sons, who earned some money last harvest in England; if you like to put them in you may do so."

4541. Would they be left out in your return?—No, I took them in.

4542. Supposing a man owed any debts, supposing that when you went to count his cattle he owed 5 *l.*, and had five head of cattle, would he deduct one to pay the 5 *l.*, and then return the four head?—I could not say as to that.

4543. Have you ever known that to be done?—I could not say.

4544. It might be done without your knowledge?—I could not say.

4545. Do you live near Mr. Wybrants Olphert's property?—I do.

4546. Is there great distress upon that property?—I do not know anything about that.

4547. You live close to it, do you not?—I live in a little village near it.

4548. You do not know whether there is any distress upon his property?—I could not say; I did not visit any houses for the purpose of making inquiry.

4549. Do you know Mr. Wybrants Olphert?—I do.

4550. Does he live there much?—He does.

4551. Is he a man that would relieve distress if he knew of it?—I could not say anything about Mr. Olphert but what would be all right, so far as I could speak of him, as respects myself.

4552. Do you think that there could be any great distress upon Mr. Olphert's property without your knowing of it?—There could be, and they might die of starvation in twenties without my knowledge, because they live far from me where they are poor; I live at Cross Roads, and people might be dead within a quarter of a mile from me and I not know it.

4553. Do you know a man named Edward Whooriskey?—I do know him.

4554. Did he get relief?—I could not say.

4555. You are not the distributor of relief for that district?—No.

4556. You do not know whether he got relief or not?—I do not. I did not see him get any, or I did not see him there wanting any. I know nothing at all about the man looking for relief.

4557. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] You state that you visited six townlands, and that in those six townlands there are 230 families?—Yes.

4558. Inhabiting, I suppose, 230 houses?—Yes.

4559. Are those all the houses in those six townlands?—Yes, they are; there might be other little office houses.

4560. There might be one or two more, but not many?—No.

4561. In the case of those 230 families prior to 1846 were they all comfortable?—Yes, before 1846.

4562. Can you answer this question; you are now talking of the present time, 1858; go back to 1845, do you think that there has been an increase or a decrease in those townlands during the last 15 years?—I do not know.

4563. Prior to 1846 you state that they were more comfortable?—I could not just recollect them all, but generally it was so.

Owen Boyle.

18 June 1858.

4564. Now, supposing as you say, that the 230 families were comfortable, are there no more than 230 families now in that townland, than there were upon the land in 1846?—There might be more and there might be less; I could not account for it; I know all the people that are in the country on this district; I have known them personally on all occasions, as they come in and out to my place.

4565. Are there now, at this moment, only 230 families inhabiting 230 houses in the six townlands?—Yes; there might have been more people living at that time. I cannot account for those that died.

4566. I am asking you about the houses?—There are 230 houses, and there are 1,196 souls in those houses.

4567. You have 230 houses now?—Yes, I have.

4568. Had you, in 1845 or 1846, the same number of houses?—I did not go round to take any statistics at that time, the same as I have done now.

4569. You make that statement to the Committee?—I mean the country people in general that I was acquainted with in those different townlands.

4570. You gave the impression to the Committee that the whole of them were comfortable?—I could not say that each of them separately was comfortable.

4571. There are 230 houses now; were there 230 in 1846?—I believe there were.

4572. Mr. *Maguire.*] That you have no means of knowing?—No.

4573. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] How is it that you have known this district for the last ten years, and you know nothing at all about Mr. Olphert's district?—I do know about Mr. Olphert's district; I know the district for within a mile of Cross Roads. I know the people there, and could mention them; but I did not go into their houses to take any account.

4574. I asked you whether there was much poverty on Mr. Olphert's property near you, and you said you do not know?—I know there is not on that part.

4575. There is not poverty on his property?—Not on that part which I am acquainted with; not along the Drimnatinnys and that district; they are as they were formerly.

4576. Do you say that they are comfortable?—They appear just as they were for the last few years.

4577. Then, of course, there was no relief given them?—I do not know. I did not give out the tickets.

4578. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did you go into any of the houses on Mr. Olphert's property?—I have gone into some of them on my own private business.

4579. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] Are those 230 families you have spoken of all in a wretched and destitute condition now?—No; there are some of them that are not just as badly clothed as others, but there is not any but I think would be glad to get relief from me, and they have asked relief.

4580. Are there any of them tolerably comfortably off now?—There are some.

4581. Can you tell the Committee how many?—I could not exactly say how many there are.

4582. How many of them are really in a destitute condition out of the 230 families?—I did not just take the names, but those people that had no beds.

4583. Count up the number in your book and tell the Committee how many out of the 230 families were really in a destitute condition?—There are 129 here that I took a note of myself, that have requested me to get them some relief. I took down their names in a book, but there are far more that I did not take in need.

4584. Now, with regard to these 129, they were not all what we have termed actually destitute, were they?—Every one wanted relief.

4585. One hundred and twenty-nine, you say, are very poor, and require relief now?—Yes.

4586. During all the 30 years that you have had a knowledge of those people, have you known their modes of living?—No; but I saw them long before I knew them personally.

4587. With regard to their style of living generally in 1846, what did they consume at that time by way of food and drink and so on?—They generally ran upon the potatoes before the failure of the potatoes; they had plenty of potatoes and milk.

4588. Did they use the milk?—Yes; but they have not milk at present.

4589. Why have they not milk now?—Because they have not any stock.

4590. There

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4590. There are 32 cows in the townland of Ray, what becomes of their milk?—There are some of that number that have not milk; there are some heifers, and some calves.

4591. What do those that have milk do with it?—They would use it. I do not state that the whole do; because I did not find but only two of them had cows giving milk.

4592. What I want is this, what becomes of the milk and butter of the cows, be they many or few, within the district?—If any of them were able to raise the amount of a pound or half a pound of butter, they would go to Dunfanaghy to get some meal for it; they could not afford to eat one pound of butter.

4593. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Do you know this townland of Mr. Olphert's along the shore where the people make kelp?—I know some of them; I generally know the people; I could tell when I meet them where they are from.

4594. In this townland are the people very poor?—I do not know. I did not take any account of them at all.

4595. Do you know their general condition from what you know of that district of country?—Yes; I know that the people along the shore are generally in good circumstances, at least some of them, and there are other creatures that are poor; I know that about Glashahoo I could get a good number of men to ship a cargo of kelp at the rate of 10*d.* and 1*s.* a day.

4596. They would not generally be subjects for relief?—I think about Glashahoo there might be some, but there are others about Magheraroarty, about Mr. Olphert's house, and round the shore in very good circumstances, in my opinion.

4597. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] They are generally better off along the sea-coast than they are inland, are not they?—They are.

4598. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] With regard to this man, O'Donnell, did you meet him at one, Shane Gallagher's, at Oldtown?—I did not meet him with Shane Gallagher, to my knowledge.

4599. Have you ever had any conversation with this Dan. O'Donnell about Mr. Nixon?—Not about Mr. Nixon; there has been no talk about Mr. Nixon whatever between Dan. Donnell and me; our conversation was about the relief that Mr. Underwood was giving out.

4600. Is there much whisky made in the district?—I could not say as respecting whisky at all.

4601. Is it used in the district?—I could not say; I do not use any myself, and I do not generally, if I can help it, go where whisky is used.

4602. Are there many shebbeens where it is sold?—I do not know a shebbeen in the country where I live.

4603. Are there no public-houses?—There are some.

4604. Are there many licensed public-houses in the district?—I could not say; I could sum them up in the little town of Folearragh.

4605. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] How many are there in Cross Roads?—I could not just say this exactly at once; there may be four, five or six in it.

4606. Or seven?—There might be; I can tell if I think for one instant; I think there are six public-houses in it.

4607. Mr. *Dobbs.*] How many houses are there at Cross Roads altogether?—I could not say.

4608. Are there 50 or 20, or 10, or how many?—I could not just say how many houses are in it at once, but if you will allow me I will tell you as near as possible as I can recollect. There are, I think, between 16 or 20; or there might be more.

4609. Do you mean to say that there are six public-houses out of the 20?—Yes.

4610. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is there not a monthly fair held there?—Yes, there is.

William Sharman Crawford, Esq., called in; and Examined.

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4611. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] YOU reside, I believe, at Crawfordsburn, in the county of Down?—Yes.

4612. A long distance from this district, about which the Committee are inquiring?—Yes.

4613. Did you go to this district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely?—Yes.

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4614. When did you go there?—I left home for this district on the 1st of June last, I think.

4615. How long did you remain there?—I remained three days, travelling through that portion of the barony.

4616. For what object did you go there?—The reason why I went was this: some time ago, when I read the appeal of the clergy to the public for relief for that district I was inclined to subscribe, but before I subscribed I saw the resolutions of the Dunfanaghy Board of Guardians; when I saw those resolutions I hesitated about subscribing, and I waited till I saw the reply of the clergy to those resolutions; when I saw the reply of the clergy to those resolutions, I was of opinion that they had satisfactorily answered the statement of the Dunfanaghy guardians, and then I sent a subscription, with a letter to the "Evening Post"; that letter was published, and I understood that it had in some degree influenced public opinion in procuring subscriptions for the fund. Again, on the 20th of May, I think, I saw other resolutions, repeating the former resolutions of the Dunfanaghy Board, denying the distress, and then, having had an invitation from the secretary to the committee of relief, in order to satisfy myself on the subject, I felt it was my duty to go and inspect the district, because, if I had been in error in my first statement, I thought I was bound to correct it in case I found that the distress did not exist which I believed. For those reasons I went to Donegal, with a view of satisfying myself as to the general condition of the people.

4617. Did your son accompany you?—My son accompanied me, for I felt it would be rather too fatiguing, perhaps, for me to go extensively over the ground, and I took him with me that he might assist me. My sole object at that time was to satisfy myself, and I had no expectation at that time of being brought before this Committee.

4618. Did you mention how long you remained?—Yes, I posted on the 1st of June, I think it was, from Strabane across to Dunfanaghy, and I then posted on from Dunfanaghy entirely round the Gweedore district, till I came back again to Letterkenny; and in going through the country, I made it my business to stop where I saw small lots of cottar-houses. I stopped every now and then, and entered the houses near the road to view them, and my son went higher up the mountain.

4619. Will you tell the Committee what townlands you visited, or what portions of the district?—I cannot tell the townlands.

4620. Can you tell the estate?—I have a general knowledge of the estates. The estates on which I saw allotments were the Reverend Alexander Nixon's, Lord Leitrim's, Mr. Wybrants Olphert's, Lord George Hill's, and Mrs. Russell's; that was the tour that I came round.

4621. Can you tell how many houses you actually inspected?—I cannot tell the number that I actually inspected, for I did not keep a particular account of the number, but I certainly went through a great many; so many as, in each district as I came to it, gave me an impression of the general nature of the houses and of the condition of the inhabitants.

4622. Did you visit as many as you thought would enable you to form an opinion yourself upon the subject?—That was my object; I visited as many as would enable me to form an opinion upon the subject. The first thing that persons looking at the condition of a country do, is to look at the houses externally. I saw that the best description of houses were made with what they call dry stone walls, filled in with clay and mortar. The houses, I found, were covered with small sticks, and over the sticks were what they call scraws, that is, sods; over those sods there was a very thin covering of straw; the straw was kept on by means of ropes passed from the front to the rear, over the house; I think the ropes were as close together as from six to nine inches asunder; that was the manner in which the thatch was kept on. When I went into the houses, I found every appearance of wretchedness and depression; there was hardly any house that I visited had an office-house outside, but those that had cattle had the cattle in one corner of the dwelling-house; one end of the dwelling-house was appropriated to the cattle. And I saw hardly any furniture; there may have been a chair or two, a pot for boiling the food in in the corner, some sticks put across in the way of a bedstead, and on that bed I saw a small quantity of straw, generally covered over with some sort of old rug; on this kind of place, if there were three or four in family, they all lay; and if there was not sufficient room on that bench, they threw down a small quantity of straw on the floor. I saw the straw

that

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that had been lifted off the floor, tied up in a little bundle and hung up against the wall; and certainly the clothing of the inmates was very miserable indeed. I looked for what stores they had, but I could see nothing, except, as it were, from hand to mouth; there was, it may be, a little box, in which they might have some meal and a very few potatoes. I inquired, when I saw no store of food, how it was that they lived, and the answer I received was this: that where there was an able-bodied man in a family they got credit from dealers in meal on a promise to pay for this meal when this able-bodied person would go to Scotland and attend the harvest there, and return with some wages; and I understood that they were very honest in that respect. But where there was no able-bodied person in the family (and I saw some houses where there were widows and children), they appeared to have no resource except the Relief Fund.

4623. Did you see any sea-weed in the houses?—I did see sea-weed, but my son, I believe, saw it more particularly than I did, mixed with their food; I did see sea-weed, and I understood, undoubtedly, that they used sea-weed to mix with whatever food they had, in order to make it go further.

4624. Did you learn that from the people themselves?—Yes, I did. I saw some of the sea-weed that they used; it was the leaves of what we call, in my part of the country, the "boxwrack."

4625. Is it used in your part of the country for food?—Not at all.

4626. Did you ever see it used for food in any other district?—I never saw it used for food before. Certainly the condition of the people that I saw there convinced me that there was an extraordinary degree of poverty; as to their comparative state, I can tell the Committee nothing about that, whether it was better or worse than it had been, for I had never been in that country before; but I can certainly attest, as far as I could judge, the existence of very great poverty in the people.

4627. Did they appear to you to be in a state of great destitution?—They did appear to me to be in a state of very great destitution. I asked them whether they could get employment, and they said that they could not; that they could very seldom get employment, and when they did so it was at a very low rate of wages. They told me they could only get from 6*d.* to 10*d.*, except when employed in cutting turf, and then they got higher wages for a few days; I saw no works either public or private going on, at which people could be employed; I travelled between 40 and 50 miles through the roads in the district, and I do not think I met a cart the whole way, except one baker's cart. The people had no carts whatever; they had to carry everything on creels or horses' backs. There seems to be no repair required on the roads, because there is no thoroughfare on them, and therefore there appears to be no public work on the roads. I was told that they formerly employed themselves when they had a greater number of sheep than they have now in knitting stockings, and knitting jackets and things of that sort, which was a great relief to them; I was told what the Committee have been already told by witnesses, that their poverty has been aggravated by the withdrawal of the usual liberty of common upon the mountains, and at the same time the rents being raised; but I think the greatest aggravation of their distress was the tax for the sheep and police, which certainly is an enormous pressure. I think that that, added to those other circumstances, must have produced an extraordinary aggravation of their poverty at the present time; the taxation was imposed of course as a punishment for alleged violence, and that is a principle that cannot be condemned; but then I think it has been carried to an excess there, and I think it has been carried to an excess beyond what the Legislature intended; because if it is carried to that degree that it endangers life by depriving the community of the necessaries of life, then I think it goes beyond what the Legislature intended, because a very great number of those that suffered by it are certainly innocent themselves, and I think that the tax was laid on upon two small districts, and became dangerously severe in perhaps affecting the lives even of the individuals suffering in that way.

4628. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Would not the poor law relief afford an answer to that?—As I understand it, those people could not get relief from the poor law, because it would not be legal to give any relief to a person having more than a quarter of an acre of ground. Therefore those who are in that degree of destitution now, being actually occupiers of the soil, could not be relieved legally from the Poor-law union.

4629. Is it not the fact that members of a family who are above 15, can go into

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the poor-house without its being necessary for the head of the family to accompany them, and therefore to give up their ground?—Yes, if they are above 15 they could do so.

4630. Did you make any inquiry as to what number had gone into the poor-house in the district?—No, I may say I did not make any inquiry; because I heard it universally said that none had gone into the poor-house of those that were holders of land or their families; I heard so.

4631. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] Will you say, from your own observation, that the pecuniary pressure upon the people during last year exceeded their means?—That is the strong impression that I have from what I saw of the district.

4631*. Did it appear to you to be in such a state as to justify the call made by the appeal in their behalf to the public?—It quite satisfied my mind individually that there was a necessity for relief. Then I would mention another thing: I found some that had cattle and some that had pigs had those cattle and pigs on credit, in the same way that they had got food; for instance, when a pig was sold, they were then to pay the first cost out of the price of the pig; and in the same way, in certain cases, with regard to cattle; or else they were to pay when they earned wages in Scotland.

4632. Lord *Naas*.] Did you visit any other part of the coast, except merely this district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely?—I just went the whole circuit of that district round, and no other part.

4633. Did you observe a decided difference in the appearance of the people in the district where this police tax had been levied from what you observed in other districts; that is to say, the district nearer Dunfanaghy?—No doubt, in the district nearer Dunfanaghy, I did not see any extraordinary distress; it was after I passed Dunfanaghy that I saw those distressed districts.

4634. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] Did this district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely appear to you to be worse than similar districts along the coast?—When I came into the district of Gweedore, that is, Lord George Hill's estate, there was a greater appearance of comfort, because the houses were better externally; they were whitened with lime; they were generally whitewashed; and my first impression was that this was an improved place; but when I went into the houses I did not find the least improvement inside; but the general appearance externally was certainly more favourable.

4635. With regard to the appearance of the people, I have no doubt you took a great deal of interest in the relief of the people during the famine time?—Yes.

4636. And are well aware of the distressed appearance that the population presented at that time?—It did not fall in my way to know that; in the parts of Ireland that I lived in there was none of that distress that would affect the appearance of the people, therefore I was not in the habit of seeing it at that time; but I had once seen distress in the county of Mayo. At the time I was in Parliament for Dundalk there was a famine, and petitions were sent to me to present, and the distress was doubted, and I went there to inspect it myself, to be able to report the truth. That was the only time on which I had seen so depressed a population as that which I have now seen in Gweedore.

4637. Do you recollect what year that was?—It was about the year 1836.

4638. You could compare the appearance of the people in the district of Mayo with what you saw at Gweedore, could you not?—I think it was much the same.

4639. Mr. *Dobbs*.] Did you visit any parts of Ireland, except in your own county, at the time of the famine?—No, I did not at that time.

4640. You live in a part of Ireland, I believe, in which the lower class is as well, if not better off than in any part of the country?—I believe they are. I believe there is no part of Ireland where the mass of the population are in such a comfortable condition as in the county of Down and the county of Armagh, and Antrim, and around Belfast.

4641. Do you know the mountainous parts of the county of Down?—I am not very much acquainted with them.

4642. Have you ever seen anything in that part of the country similar to what you have been describing?—I am not capable of answering that question. I have been very little through the mountains in Down; but I have never seen anything in the county of Down to be compared with the condition of the population of Gweedore.

4643. Did

4643. Did you ever see anything of the same character in the county of Down?—No.

4644. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Did you visit any part of this Cloughaneely and Gweedore district except the portions which the reverend gentleman who accompanied you pointed out?—The gentlemen did not point out any to me. I just stopped occasionally, and went up to such houses as attracted my own attention.

4645. I do not mean particular houses, I mean the district?—I just took the high road; I followed the high road; I was on a car.

4646. Are you aware that the alleged cause of this great distress has been the conduct of the proprietors?—I believe there is an allegation of that kind.

4647. Did you put yourself in communication with any of them whilst in that district?—I did not. I had a letter before I left the district, immediately when I was leaving, from Mr. Olphert, requesting to see me, and offering to meet me; but I was peremptorily obliged to go on that day to Londonderry, and I did not see him.

4648. You stated that there were no symptoms of great distress immediately about Dunfanaghy?—Not immediately about Dunfanaghy.

4649. It was soon after leaving Dunfanaghy that you got into the distressed district?—I think the first property where I saw distress was Mr. Nixon's; then there was Lord Leitrim's, I think.

4650. Are you aware that a considerable portion of that district through which that road travels, on your way from Dunfanaghy to Gweedore, is not subject to taxation?—I know that parts of it were not.

4651. Did you observe any material difference between those portions and other portions that were taxed?—I cannot say that I recollect any such difference. I saw the young people of the families wading in the sea up to their middle, gathering, as they said, cockles and shell-fish to bring home to their houses; and I inquired in what manner those persons that were wet in the sea got their clothes dried, and I was answered that they had no way but to sit down at the fire and let them dry on them.

4652. Did you pursue your inquiry further, by asking whether they had been in the habit of doing that for some years previously?—I did not.

4653. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Who accompanied you?—I think it was the Reverend Mr. M'Fadden. It was necessary to have somebody to accompany me, for this reason, that there were only very few individuals in the district and in the houses that I visited that could speak English, and I could only get information from them by making use of the reverend gentleman as interpreter; he put questions that I wished to have asked to the people, and translated the answers to me; but if I had not had the assistance of some person who could speak Irish, I could not have obtained any information at all. One day was a holiday, and I happened to meet the people going to chapel near a place called Crossroads, I think, and there I had an opportunity of seeing how the people were dressed when they were coming out of chapel. The women had generally no shoes nor stockings, and no bonnet; they had some kind of shawl round them, and a cap on. Hardly any of the men had coats on; they had waistcoats, with some sort of under waistcoat with a flannel sleeve, but they had no coats at all. I was struck with the manifestation of the industry of the people in reclaiming those small lots, but I think it is impossible that there can be anything else than destitution under the system of allotment that is there practised.

4654. You think that the lots are too small?—The lots are too small. I saw several strips that were not broader than the length of a house; there were some few on which it was necessary to build the house lengthwise; those lots were of great length, and carried through different qualities of soil, but there were no fences between the several lots; they were only marked by stones. It was impossible that those could be properly cultivated under those circumstances, and it appeared very plain to me that unless they had other means along with those lots they could not be otherwise than in distress.

4655. The district would not, you think, support the population under such a state of circumstances?—That is decidedly my opinion. It is impossible for them to live, and they will only be getting progressively worse and worse as long as that system is continued; and I felt more regret to see the people placed in those small divisions, when I saw such large quantities of improvable land on which their labour might be expended. And then another impediment to any successful

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reclamation was, that I understood that they had no description of lease, or agreement of any kind, which would secure to them any certainty of return for their money.

4656. Did you ever hear of any person suffering from that insecurity of tenure; were any cases mentioned to you?—I understood that they had not suffered, because they had paid the increased rents; but I did hear that on one estate it was the habit to serve the tenants on the 1st of May, yearly, with notices to quit.

4657. What estate was that?—I am rather reluctant to mention it; but I suppose the Committee have had it from other witnesses; at any rate they certainly had no security for the permanence of their allotments.

4658. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] The Committee have had so many names that you need have no delicacy in mentioning names?—The name that I heard was Lord George Hill's; his name I heard; but it is not for me to say whether the statement was true or not.

4659. Mr. *Dobbs.*] How many days were you there altogether?—Three days.

4660. Did you stop at the Gweedore Hotel?—No, I could not reach it; I intended to stop at the Gweedore Hotel, but I could not reach it at the time of night that I left off visiting the houses.

4661. Can you tell the Committee whether there is any number of visitors or traffic there at all?—I cannot tell; but I saw Lord George Hill's store built at Bunbeg, and a very fine store.

4662. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] The houses are not very numerous, are they?—Wherever I saw allotments I found habitations.

4663. As you could not reach the hotel, where did you manage to put up?—I put up at the priest's house two nights; I was entertained at different priests' houses; there was no other accommodation to be obtained in the country. I was obliged to take the same horse with me, and when the horse was tired I was obliged to put up where I could get accommodation; it did not much matter about speed; I stopped so often that I was obliged to take up a great deal of time. There was one feature that struck me: we were told that the distress suffered in former times was from the system of middlemen. It appeared to me, from information that I got, that all those people were direct tenants of the head landlords. I confess, myself, that I could not, as a landlord, have had any satisfaction in receiving rents from tenants so circumstanced as those were. I must believe that the landlords were not aware of the circumstances of the tenants, or some exertions would be made to improve their condition by change of the system of allotments.

4664. What change would you suggest?—By making larger allotments.

4665. What would you do with the surplus population?—I do not think there would be any surplus population at all. I would make more allotments, and then I think there would be no surplus population.

4666. In fact, you would advocate an extension of the system of what are called new cuts?—Yes; but I would make them sufficiently large, and fence them and enclose them properly, so that every man would have a boundary within which he could keep his cattle, and keep his culture free from being trespassed on by his neighbours.

4667. Lord *Naas.*] You would not advocate what is called the system of rundale?—No; I think that is the worst system that can possibly be.

4668. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Are you aware that on this property of Lord George Hill's, the allotments are all distinct, each having its own boundary?—There are no fences; they are only marked out by stones, so far as I saw.

4669. Every man knows his own holding, does he not?—He may know it, but that does not answer the purpose, because how is he to keep his cattle if they are not fenced at all. Then I heard that another evil was, that if they took pasture on the mountain for their cattle, there were certain portions of the mountains, as I understood, appropriated for pasture on payment; but those portions were not separated, as I understood, from the portion that belonged to the landlord, and was given to other tenants for sheep-walks, and then, if the people did not keep herds, they told me their cattle were continually trespassing, and going over the boundary, and when they did so they were immediately impounded, and a heavy charge made upon them for trespass. I saw, I suppose, 30 or 40 cattle shut up in pound, and I inquired the reason, and that was the reason which I was told; they were shut up there till the trespass was paid for, which I understood was 2*s.* for each head of cattle that went over the boundary.

4670. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] You have heard of those mountain pasturages?—Yes.

4671. Could the people, in fact, keep any quantity of stock without being allowed to graze them upon the mountain?—I think they could not. I think it is absolutely essential for them to have pasturage on the mountain if they kept stock at all, because it is impossible for them to keep them on the allotments.

4672. Mr. *Dobbs*.] I understand it to be your opinion that the present population could be supported upon this land if the allotments were larger, and they were differently managed?—Yes; I have a statistical memorandum here on that subject. There is a table in the census: Ireland, Census IV., Part 6, 1851, gives the local population of the different counties in Ireland, and their proportion to the square mile; and I find that the population of Donegal is in the proportion of 231 to the square mile of arable acres. Now in Down the proportion of the population to the square mile of arable acres is 343; so that the population of Donegal is much less than the population of Down to the square mile. Therefore I infer, upon that data, that Donegal is not over-populated, if the population were properly distributed over the soil.

4673. That is on the assumption that the land is equal in quality in Down and in Donegal?—It is arable in both.

4674. Lord *Naas*.] The arable land in Donegal is a very different thing from arable land in the county of Down, is it not?—It is capable, I think, of being made sufficient for that population.

4675. Still it would hardly bear comparison with your own land in the county of Down, where your land is of very different quality?—Undoubtedly. But there is another statement: there are in the county of Donegal, improveable for cultivation, 150,000 acres, and improveable for pasture 250,000; so that there are 400,000 acres still in the county of Donegal improveable either for culture or pasture. Then I think there would be work for a very large population, supposing means were taken to improve this great number of acres that are still unimproved in the county of Donegal. Those are two points on which I found my opinion that Donegal is not over-populated.

4676. Is not the soil of the country in which you travelled in Donegal the other day peaty and moory?—There is an immense quantity of all those descriptions of soil, the moory and the marshy, a great portion of which has good soil under it, and would be capable of improvement.

4677. Is not it mostly granite formation?—I am not a very good mineralogist, and I am not sure about that.

4678. Is it not limestone?—I do not think I observed limestone.

4679. *Chairman*.] After this publication of an address, signed by a great number of clergymen, about the state of distress in this district, you saw the resolution published by the Board of Guardians of Dunfanaghy, denying that state of destitution?—Yes.

4680. Will you state whether, from your own personal observation, you think that the Dunfanaghy Board of Guardians are borne out in that resolution to which they came?—I feel quite the reverse; the words were really too strong for any propriety of use. I think the words were, "False, and totally unfounded," or something to that effect. I think that was a very unwarrantable statement to make of the address of the clergy.

4681. Also upon that there was a report made, was there not, by Mr. Hamilton, who is a poor law inspector?—Yes.

4682. You have seen that report, have not you?—Yes.

4683. Do you think that his opinion, as expressed in that report, is borne out by the state of facts as you saw them?—Certainly it is not; he confirms by his report the statement of the Dunfanaghy Board; at least substantially confirms it; therefore I think he certainly had not made sufficient inquiry before he made that statement.

4684. Sir *William Somerville*.] Did you visit the workhouse of Dunfanaghy when you were there?—No, I did not.

4685. Mr. *Maguire*.] You spoke about the new cuts; I ask you, would you approve of a system of squatting down a number of people on the cuts, in a state of nature, and allowing them to battle out existence without any effort being made, on the part of the landlord, to improve those cuts four or five acres in extent?—I think the first thing to be done, by a landlord, would be to put a proper drainage into the land; drainage would be required, and some sort of a temporary

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temporary house should be built by the landlord. I think that would be the course, and then I think the tenant ought to be set down on a lease, or an agreement on which he could be conditioned that he should do such and such improvements, and when he had made those improvements that he should be entitled to a tenure of considerable length.

4686. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Would four or five acres of that species of soil now given to them, in the state in which they were, and without any liberty of grazing on the mountain, be sufficient to maintain them with any sort of decency, and enable them to pay a rent?—I think four or five acres would not be sufficient; I would expect that they should have 15 or 20 acres of that sort of soil.

4687. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You would think it advisable for proprietors to borrow money from the Board of Works, to carry on those improvements?—I think it would be highly advisable.

4688. Do you think, from your knowledge of that system, that it would pay them?—I would expect so; there is given in the Digest of the Landlord and Tenant Report the form of an agreement for the purposes that we are speaking of; the tenantry entering upon the allotments to be subject to certain engagements and certain terms for the improvement of the land.

4689. *Chairman.*] From your observation as a gentleman acquainted with Ireland generally, and having visited that district, do you consider that the report circulated by those Roman-catholic clergymen has been borne out, and that the state of destitution which is represented in that report to have existed in the district is, in your opinion, borne out by your general observation?—That is my opinion; that is the general view which I took of the state of the district.

4690. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Except when you visited Mayo at the time you spoke of, has not your knowledge of Ireland been confined to some of the very best parts of it?—Yes, I admit that.

4691. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Was the personal appearance of the people sickly and unhealthy?—The old people looked very ill; the young people did not look comparatively so bad; they did not look well, but it was the old people that seemed to me to have the worst appearance.

James Crawford, Esq., called in; and Examined.

J. Crawford, Esq.

4692. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] YOU accompanied your father, did you not, on his visits through those districts?—I did.

4693. Did you go into parts of the country that he did not inquire into?—I went into a number of houses additional to what he did, which were further removed from the road than where he could well go to.

4694. Did you go with him into any of the houses near the road?—We very seldom, I think, went into the same houses, for when he was visiting near the road I went away to houses at a distance to visit them.

4695. Did you go into many more houses than he did?—A considerable number, I believe.

4696. Will you just tell the Committee the condition generally in which you found the houses and the people in them?—I would rather divide them into different lots, because there are different ones, that I did not think bore the same analogy among them all.

4697. Will you give the Committee your own account of what you saw?—The inmates of all the dwellings that I visited, with few exceptions, appeared to me to be in great distress; in general there was a great want of clothing, particularly bed clothes, the beds being there as described by Mr. Underwood; either some sods with straw on them, or some sort of settle raised up; and in general in those houses where there were not two apartments to a house the cattle were uniformly, where they had cattle, at one side of the door, and the living part of the house at the other. When I visited a part of Lord Leitrim's property (I do not know the name of it), it appeared to me to be the same thing. One man invited me into his house, and there was no clothing upon the bed for his four children; he took up two sacks, one in each hand, and he said there is all that I have for them, and I have two more sacks for myself and my wife. Afterwards, in proceeding through Mr. Olphert's property (Meeneamga, I think, is the name of the townland), I found a good number of houses there; that was the first place where I came in contact with the new cuts; I observed that the houses

houses were different to Mr. Nixon's houses, which were built of stone; there were a good number of houses on these new cuts built of sods cut out of the moss, and when we were going along the road with Mr. M'Fadden, the people were running down to see him, and to get orders for relief; I was in several of the houses, and they all complained to me of their destitution and their want of clothes, and also that they had no cattle. They were all living, I believe, upon shell-fish and cockles, and sea weed, as I gathered always from their conversation. The women could not speak Irish; but the word "dolamann" was constantly coming in. There was one place that I visited, belonging to a man, which was set up at the side of a hill behind a big stone, which was a wretched place, without any bed-clothing. I asked how many meals a day the people generally had, and they said that they had only one a day generally. At a place I understood to be called Meencarriga, we saw the people in the water gathering cockles, and bringing them home. On proceeding further I came into Gweedore, and there I found upon the new cuts there were those wretched houses. Upon the old lots there was a greater appearance of comfort, with good houses; at least, in their external appearance, the houses seemed better: there were not many of those sod or rather moss hovels on the Gweedore property. I was in, I think, about only two or three on that property; but in general there appeared to me to be very great destitution in the houses that I entered, and a great want of bed-clothes; wherever I saw a blanket or a quilt, and I asked them where they got it from, the invariable answer given me was that it was given them by the Relief Committee.

4698. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Had you any opportunity of seeing how they were supplied with fuel?—In every place they seemed to have a good deal of fuel; and if it were not for the fuel I do not see how they would exist, from the want of clothes at night. They must have been lost in those places in winter if it were not for the quantity of fuel that they had.

4699. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Did you observe their food?—As to their food, in one instance, on Mr. Nixon's property, I was determined to make a point to see this seaweed, and I asked the woman of the house whether she used it; and after a little while she produced, from under a shelf, a pot of sloke, which I suppose held about two quarts. I then went further, and I asked if there was any shell-fish in the house; and, after a little more work, she went to another corner, and pulled out some shell-fish. In another house there was a woman and eight children, who were said to be very destitute; it was a respectable-looking woman, quite different from the usual class, came in, and appealed to get relief, as she said that this woman, with eight in a family, had not a meal in the house.

4700. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You live in the county of Down, do you not?—Yes, I do.

4701. Are you acquainted with any part of Ireland, in this sort of way, except Down?—I am not.

4702. Are you well acquainted with the state of the peasantry in the poorer parts of Ireland?—I am not.

4703. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You had never seen the mountains and sea-coast population before?—Never, of that kind.

4704. *Chairman.*] Did the people appear to be in a state of very great destitution?—They appeared to me to be destitute; and what gave me that idea was, seeing so many men without shoes, although they had stockings on; there were only one or two children that I could call naked; they were generally clothed; but it appeared to me that the women had hardly anything on, there was so small a quantity of clothing on them.

4705. Mr. *Maguire.*] It was after they had received relief from the Committee that you visited the country, was it not?—Yes, subsequently to that.

Lunæ, 21° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bagwell.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	Mr. P. Wykeham Martin.
Mr. Serjeant Deasy.	Lord Naas.
Mr. Dobbs.	Sir W. Somerville.
Sir Edmund Hayes.	

JOHN BAGWELL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Wybrants Olphert, Esq., called in; and Examined.

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4706. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] WHERE do you reside?—At Ballyconnell, in the district of Cloughaneely.

4707. You are a magistrate, are you not?—Yes.

4708. And a resident proprietor?—Yes.

4709. And you are the vice-chairman of the Board of Guardians, and the deputy-lieutenant of the county?—Yes.

4710. Has your property been in your possession for any length of time?—It has been about 230 years in the possession of my family, and I have been managing it and living there constantly for the last 20 to 25 years.

4711. Have you been managing your own property?—Yes.

4712. And you are therefore intimately acquainted with the condition and habits of the people, particularly of the Cloughaneely district?—Yes, that is the district which I reside in.

4713. There was a portion of your property, was there not, that you purchased?—Yes, two townlands.

4714. What are their names?—The townland of Lower Baltoney and the townland of Cashel.

4715. Are they in the district of Cloughaneely?—Yes, all that I have is in Cloughaneely.

4716. In your opinion, in that district is there that degree of destitution which has been alleged?—I do not think that there is any destitution whatever in the country.

4717. How are the people off this year, as compared with their condition last year and former years?—They are much better off than they have been for many years.

4718. In what way?—In every respect; they have more stock, and they have had a much better crop of potatoes and corn this year.

4719. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] In what barony is this property situated?—The barony of Kilmacrennan.

4720. Do you think that the potato crop was better last year than it had been for several years?—Very much better.

4721. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] From your knowledge of the country, is there a supply of potatoes at the present time?—Not for the country generally; there may be a great many people who had potatoes up to the 1st of June, or it may be who may have them to the 1st of July, but they are generally quite satisfied if they have them to the 1st of June.

4722. Do you know what the price of potatoes is?—When I left home they were selling at 4*d.* a stone.

4723. Are

4723. Are there eight stone to a cwt.?—They are sold with us by the barrel; 40 stone to the barrel, and eight stone to the cwt.

4724. Have you any knowledge of the price of meal?—The price of Indian meal was 10*s.* or 10*s.* 6*d.*, and oatmeal 14*s.* the cwt.

4725. Are those prices lower than they have been for the last two or three years?—I think that the oatmeal was lower, and I think that the Indian meal was much about the same.

4726. Are you in the habit of mixing much amongst the people?—I seldom ever leave the country at all. I generally ride through some part of it every day, and I generally have as many as 10 or 12 persons coming to me every day, on an average, about different matters; in fact, nothing can go on in the country that I do not know of.

4727. When any one in your district around you becomes needy, are they in the habit of applying to you for assistance?—Frequently they have done so.

4728. Have you had many applications for assistance this year?—None.

4729. Have there been rather fewer applications this year than usual?—I have had none whatever, for work or anything else.

4730. In what way do you generally assist them, when applications are made to you?—Sometimes, if a man is in distress, and he wants the loan of 1 *l.* or 2 *l.* to help him to put in his crop, he comes and asks me for it, and if I think it a case that requires help, I frequently advance the money.

4731. And have you had no applications of that sort this year?—None whatever.

4732. Is there much begging through that part of the country?—I have never seen less begging. I do not know when I have seen a beggar, except a few strangers that have lately come into the country since this meal has been given out.

4733. Is it possible, in your opinion, that this destitution to any extent could exist without your knowledge?—Quite impossible.

4734. Then what is your opinion as to the statements made in the appeal of last December?—I think it one of the greatest impositions that ever was practised upon the public.

4735. In the time of the famine you were residing in that country, were you not?—I was.

4736. Was the distress then very marked?—It was very great.

4737. Can you state to the Committee any steps that were taken by you to relieve the people?—I have been there in several other seasons when there was famine in the country; in 1837, I think, and before that, there were one or two years of scarcity previous to the famine.

4738. Were you there at the time of the famine of 1846?—I was there all the time, and we got quantities of meal in and sold it to the people, as long as they could purchase it, at reduced prices, until the Government began to send it in. I think that we, that is, myself and other proprietors, purchased something like 4,000 *l.* worth of meal that year.

4739. That was at a time when there was real destitution?—Yes, it was a time when there was real destitution.

4740. You were the chairman or vice-chairman of the Board of Guardians at that time, were you not?—Yes.

4741. Were there many applications for relief at the workhouse?—The poorhouse was nearly full.

4742. The same causes which are said now to prevent the people from going into the workhouse were in operation then, were they not?—Just the same.

4743. Were there many deaths in the poorhouse?—I cannot exactly say the number, but there were not many, considering the number of poor people that went in.

4744. Was the workhouse in Dunfanaghy considered more or less healthy than the neighbouring workhouses?—I believe it has always been considered healthy, and we enlarged it on purpose to have plenty of room; it was quite full.

4745. Generally, with regard to the clothing of the people, what is your opinion as to their clothing?—I think that they are as well clothed as they usually are; I see no difference in the clothing; they wear a great deal of their own manufacture; and I think that, in this locality, it is as good if not better than it has ever been; in fact, I do not see any appearance of want of clothing, such as

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they wear; they do not dress in the fashionable costume that they do in other places, but they wear good substantial clothing; the women wear good petticoats.

4746. From your knowledge of the country, would the condition and appearance of a man's house, to a stranger, lead him to form any accurate idea of the real position of the man?—Certainly not. Many houses that you go into are wretchedly poor in the inside, and very dirty; that is the prevailing state of things amongst them all when they have plenty of money inside the house, and no appearance whatever of comfort in the house.

4747. In fact, the houses frequently give a person every idea of discomfort, whereas the reality is far otherwise?—Yes, to a stranger's eye particularly.

4748. Are they in the habit frequently, from choice, of keeping their cattle in the house?—They mostly all keep their cattle in the house, except some of the better description of farmers, and it is impossible to prevent it; they have an idea that the cattle derive benefit from the heat, and are more easily fed; they can throw them things from their tubs without any trouble.

4749. When this appeal was made, and the subscriptions were coming in, was there any public announcement in the district as to the mode in which the relief was to be administered?—Yes; it was given out publicly, on Easter Sunday, I think, at Gortahork Chapel, by the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden, that no one in the district was to get relief except those who paid sheep tax or police tax.

4750. Do you remember how many townlands you hold in that district?—I think I hold about 17 or 18.

4751. How many of them paid sheep tax, and how many paid police tax?—Only one paid police tax, and one sheep tax.

4752. In consequence of this announcement, what was the expectation of the people?—They all expected to get the amount of their taxes, others were disappointed, and did not make much inquiry about getting any; this occurred in the month of April.

4753. After the 1st of May, that is, after the appointment of this Committee, what took place?—Then there was a rush down of strangers and priests to all the poor houses, examining them, and there was quite a different state of things then; there was no looking into or examination of the houses previous to the 1st of May.

4754. Was there any announcement as to relief after the 1st of May?—I did not hear of anything particular, except that the Reverend James M'Fadden, when he returned to the country, said that all should have it.

4755. It has been suggested, on looking into the list that has been delivered in, that several people have received relief who were not entitled to relief from destitution; can you give the Committee a few instances of that?—I wish to state that I confined my inquiries entirely to the townlands where the sheep and police tax was paid; I went particularly into those cases where they received the amount of their tax.

4756. You stated that only one paid tax; do you mean one townland?—I mean that only one townland paid the police tax, and one paid the sheep tax. Upper Keeldrum paid the sheep tax, and Glasherhoo paid the police tax.

4757. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Michael Doohan of Glasherhoo, was one of those who were returned as having received relief, was he not?—Yes.

4758. Will you state to the Committee from your knowledge what are the circumstances of that man?—He paid 1 *l.* 11 *s.* 4 *d.* police tax; he received 4 *l.* from the Rev. Mr. M'Gee, to divide among his neighbours in the townland; he told me so himself.

4759. Was it understood that he was to retain his own share?—Yes.

4760. Will you state what that man's circumstances are?—He has 3 horses, 8 cows, and 20 sheep; he is considered a very rich man there; he buys generally to the amount of 100 *l.* or 200 *l.* worth of kelp, of his own money. He received 10 *s.* as his portion of the police tax, and he received a shawl for his wife; this is what I have noted down on my memorandum, and on referring to Mr. Doherty's book I find at No. 929, that he received an entire suit of clothes. He is a man who has always money about him, and he gave me this winter himself 50 *l.* in change when I wanted it?—I sent to ask him for it, and he gave it me.

4761. This man is on the destitute list?—He is.

4762. Does that man keep his cattle in his house or not?—He keeps some in his

his house, and he has a cow-house also. His house would not present to a stranger the appearance of any particular comfort.

4763. What is the style of his furniture?—It is something better than the others, but there is a great deal of filth in his house, and the whole appearance of the house is dirty.

4764. There is a man named James Curran, can you give the Committee a account of him?—He is in the same townland, and he paid 1 *l.* 7 *s.* 10 *d.* tax; his stock is 2 horses, 5 cows, and 40 sheep; he is considered very comfortably off; he received a portion of this money from Michael Douhan, and at No. 932, in the Rev. Mr. Doherty's book, I find that he received a quantity of clothing. This is the townland which Mr. Doherty stated was in such poor circumstances, and that it was one of the most destitute.

4765. Now, take the case of Ned M'Fadden, what are his circumstances?—He paid 1 *l.* 7 *s.* 10 *d.* tax; his stock consists of 1 horse, 6 cows, and 40 sheep; he is very comfortably off for that part of the country. This man offered the clothes that he got from the relief committee to James M'Geever, a poor man, because he did not want them, if he would work for him; that is information which James M'Geever gave me himself. There is another man who has been alluded to, I think in the evidence of Mr. Underwood, named Dennis M'Gee, in the same townland, and I wish to state his case, because Mr. Underwood brought it forward as a wretchedly poor house. He paid 1 *l.* 4 *s.* 11 *d.* tax, and he has 1 horse, 8 cows, and 20 sheep, and is a very independent man. His rent is I think about 3 *l.* 3 *s.*

4766. If the Committee wish it, you can supply them with a considerable number of instances of a similar kind?—Yes. I will give the poorest man who holds land in this townland, John M'Cafferty. He paid 1 *l.* 7 *s.* 10 *d.* He has two cows; he has received relief; 669 is his number in the Rev. Mr. Doherty's book. Every man in this townland received relief.

4767. It was stated in evidence to the Committee that no persons received relief but the destitute, with the exception of those who may have got it through deceit; will you be very particular in stating whether of your own knowledge you are acquainted with those facts?—I know everything connected with them, and I say that there is no destitution; there is not one in that townland who should have got relief in any shape. I should state that the word "relief" they never mentioned to me; the people call it their tax.

4768. They do not speak of it as relief?—No; they would not understand it if you asked about relief.

4769. They speak of it as remuneration for their tax?—Exactly so.

4770. Will you now go to Upper Keeldrum; is Upper Keeldrum your property?—It is.

4771. There was a man mentioned by Mr. Underwood in this townland as a peculiar case of destitution, Neal Doogan; will you state to the Committee what you know of that man?—Neal Doogan was stated by Mr. Underwood as being a very wretchedly poor man; he said that his house was bad, and that the place was very dirty and wretched. This man has a slate house; he paid 12 *s.* sheep tax, and he received 10 *s.* 6 *d.* worth of meal from the Reverend Mr. M'Fadden. He has a horse, six cows, and nine sheep; and the day that he received the meal he came down to me, and told me that he was going to buy a horse. I said to him, "Horses are dear now;" and he said that he had 15 *l.* in his pocket to buy a good one with. I met him a few days afterwards going through the townland, and he told me that he had purchased a horse, and that he had got one for 9 *l.*; he had the money in his pocket when he got the meal.

4772. Was that on the day when he received assistance from the relief fund?—Yes.

4773. There is a man named Miles Ferry in the same townland; will you state what you know of his case?—Miles Ferry lives very near to Gweedore; he has the last house on my property there, and it is a very wretched miserable looking house; it is built of stone, but it is as dirty as any house in the parish. He paid 6 *s.* tax; he told me that he received 15 *s.* in meal, and he received, I see by Mr. Doherty's book, No. 180, a quantity of clothes. He has 1 horse, 5 cows, and 12 sheep; this I saw myself. He came over to me with a cart of oats on the 23d of April, 10 days after he received this money, and he sold me four sacks of oats, which he said were his own, and which he had in his house for some

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time, and two sacks of which he had purchased from someone else. I paid him 5 *l.* 16*s.* for the oats that he brought me. That was after he had received assistance from this fund.

4774. Now, take the case of Ned M'Cue, what do you know of him?—Ned M'Cue paid 18*s.* of tax; he received 10*s.* 6*d.* worth of meal; he has three cows and four sheep; he is a man who supplies the police with milk, and he did supply the barrack there with milk up to the 1st of April 1858.

4775. This man is also upon the relief list, is he not?—Yes, he received relief. In the book that has been handed in by the Rev. James M'Fadden, of the relief given in Cloughaneely, it is not numbered nor dated, so that I cannot know it from the book, but I have the order from the person who gave him the meal.

4776. Now, will you state the case of Michael M'Geady?—He paid 4*s.* sheep tax, and he got 10*s.* 6*d.* worth of meal; he has a horse, three cows, and eight sheep, and he has sold potatoes since he got the meal.

4777. If the Committee wished, could you supply them with a considerable number of cases of the same kind?—Yes.

4778. *Chairman.*] How do you know that this man M'Geady sold potatoes?—I made inquiry who had potatoes to sell in the townland, and I asked the police constable, who was in the town, if he knew who supplied him with potatoes, and he told me that he got them in the town, and he mentioned this man as having sold potatoes.

4779. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Are you acquainted with the townlands of Meenagoppa and Procklish?—Those are on the Rev. Mr. Stewart's property; those are the only townlands along with my own, and a small portion of one of the Rev. Mr. Nixon's, that paid any tax in the whole district of Cloughaneelly; those townlands paid the police tax.

4780. Do you know Hugh Roharty's case?—Yes; Hugh Roharty is a tenant of Mr. Stewart's; he paid 3 *l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*, and he received from Mr. M'Fadden 1 *l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* in meal; he has two horses, 23 cows, and 40 sheep.

4781. When Mr. Stewart heard of this man's case did he go to visit him?—He did, and he was astonished at what he saw; he went up to see him, and the man offered him tea and bread and butter when he went into the house; it is a long way from Mr. Stewart's residence, and Mr. Stewart saw these things I have mentioned on the place.

4782. Is he on the list as having received relief?—Yes, he is on the list.

4783. Now take the case of Tague Gallagher; what are his circumstances?—He is another tenant of Mr. Stewart's; he paid 3 *l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* tax.

4784. Mr. *Maguire.*] Who told you this?—I am speaking from a return which was furnished me by Head Constable Young, the collector. Tague Gallagher paid 3*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* police tax, and he received 1 *l.* 16*s.* 6*d.* in meal; I do not say that he took it all in meal; he has three horses, 26 cows, and 60 sheep, and he is on the relief list.

4785. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] With regard to Neddy Gallagher, what are his circumstances?—He paid 4 *l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* police tax, and he received 2 *l.* 10*s.*; they all equally received about half the amount of their tax.

4786. Mr. *Maguire.*] What is his stock?—Two horses, 12 cows, and 40 sheep.

4787. Lord *Naas.*] What do you mean by half the tax?—Half of the police tax.

4788. Do you wish the Committee to understand that you believe that the relief was distributed on that principle, in proportion to the police tax and the sheep tax?—Yes; I made inquiry and I found that they received very nearly half the amount of tax that they paid.

4789. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Can you put in many other instances in that townland?—Those mentioned are the only tenants on that townland.

4790. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] You did not visit the men yourself, did you?—I did not; I received the amount of meal from the shopkeeper who gave it out.

4791. *Chairman.*] With regard to the number of cattle that you have given in, how did you get at the number?—I got a return of them from the police and Mr. Hunter, who had taken the stock; and I also heard it from Mr. Stewart of Hornhead himself.

5792. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] On or about the 1st of May, after this Committee was appointed, did not a change take place in the distribution of relief?—Yes.

4793. Will you state to the Committee what you understood took place after the 1st of May?—On the 1st of May, after the Committee was appointed, the Reverend James M'Fadden, the curate of the parish, returned to the parish (he had been away for four months), and he from that date, with a number of other strangers, reporters of newspapers, and other priests who I believe had seldom been in the country, came down and inspected the houses, and went through the different places; for the first fortnight there was nothing but driving round and going through a regular tour of inspection of them every day; the strangers were generally brought the same tour; I saw them myself.

4794. Upon hearing of this, did you go to some of the houses?—I did.

4795. Whose house did you go to first?—I went to the house of James M'Fadden, in Lower Keeldrum, one who was mentioned as being wretchedly poor.

4796. What condition did you find him in?—When I went to that townland I found his house very wretchedly dirty, and his beds bad; I found, I suppose, about two barrels of potatoes in the house; that was on the 12th of May; he was cutting turf himself, and I saw no particular change in his house. I went to another house, to the house of a man of the name of Hugh Cannon, and on going into the house I saw there was a great commotion in the bedroom, the room off the kitchen, and the door was shut. I told them I came, as I had heard they had no beds to sleep upon, and I was surprised to hear it, and I wanted to see if they had any. The woman opened the door; she had been baking bread in the inside of the house, and she said she had three beds. The bed-clothes were dirty and bad, but that I usually saw in their houses. I told her it had been reported that she had no beds to lie upon, and I was sorry to hear it. She said that she had beds, but her bed-clothes were bad. I then went to another house, belonging to a man named Doogan.

4797. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] When you speak of beds, do you mean beds such as Mr. Underwood described?—I mean the beds usual in that country, four-posted beds.

4798. Do you know what the bed was composed of?—I do not know what the bed was composed of; I should think that it was straw, with a sheet and a quilt over it.

4799. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Did this woman say that she had as much bedding as she usually had?—Yes; and I saw in the house some new clothing, that she said she had got, through one of her neighbours, from the relief committee.

4800. You state that you saw three bedsteads?—I saw three beds. I am not sure whether they were bedsteads; they were built up in a particular way in the room. I went then to Collum Doogan's house. They began by that time to find out what I was about, and I saw the people running from door to door; I rode up to Collum Doogan's door, and he met me at the door; I said that I had come to see his beds; he said that he had no beds. I walked in, and looked at his house, and when I went into the kitchen, I saw a bedstead in the corner next the fire, with a very white sheet upon it; I thought this very strange that there should only be a white sheet upon the bed; it struck me that the bed-clothes were taken away; and on looking round, I saw two large creels at the horse's head. I asked Collum what was in the creels, and he said that there were some old rags in them. I then went to the creels, and I lifted one of them, and placed it on the kitchen floor, and I pulled everything out of it; I then brought in the other one, and pulled everything out of it; there were quilts, blankets, and bedding sufficient for two beds in those two creels. He had just got time to put them into the creels when I came in. I then said it was perfectly useless my going to look after them when I saw the imposition that they were practising; and I was very angry with this man for trying to deceive me. He said that they were his mother's bed-clothes; but I said, "They could not be your mothers; for you rode up before me on the road, on your own horse with the creels, and you had only time to put your horse in the house, and take the creels off when I came to the door." I then went to the door, and I saw a girl running with another creel on her back, and I was certain that it was bed-clothes. I did not think it worth while to examine any more. As I went on the road I met another man, Billy M'Award; I said to him, "I will not affront you by going into your house, and asking if you have a bed, as I am sure you have one." I told him I understood that Paddy Sweeney was making a list of

all who had beds, and had returned the people of the townland as having no beds, but as lying on flags. He said, "Oh, he has not been in my house at all; I have my beds as usual; but," said he, "you see what is going on here, and you need not mind what you hear now." He said, in a knowing way, "You see what is going on here."

4801. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was this man a tenant of yours?—Yes. I met another tenant walking a little lower down, and I told him I hoped he had beds, and he said he had. I asked him if Sweeney had been in his house, and he said he had not; he would not let him come to make inquiries about his house. I asked him how it was that all those people became so poor in so short a time, and he said, "Oh, you are not to believe all you hear;" upon which I rode on and left him. I did not make any further inspection; I felt it was perfectly useless, as I could not get a word of truth.

4802. Are you speaking of the person who was to have been examined here; was this man Sweeney examined before this Committee?—No.

4803. Why do you speak about this man?—I heard that he was a man who was to come here and be examined.

4804. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You state that Billy M'Award told you tha Sweeney was taking down the names?—Yes; and I saw Sweeney 20 times myself going through the townland and taking notes.

4805. And were some of the houses that Sweeney returned in the condition that you have described?—Yes; I saw the whole thing going on from the 1st of May.

4806. You were under the impression, from what you had seen, that there was a case got up for inspection?—I am certain that there was, and every house was prepared before they went to it.

4807. Do you know the cases of Owen Ferry and Charles Gallagher, of Upper Keeldrum?—Those are the two men that the Reverend Mr. M'Fadden stated in his evidence on Friday were obliged to sell their stock because they had no grazing for them; he said that they were comfortably off, but were obliged to sell their stock on that account.

4808. What are the facts of those cases?—They are men who buy stock in the spring, and sell them in the months of October and November, because they have not fodder sufficient to feed them during the winter. The impression that was supposed to be made upon the Committee was, that those men had sold their stock, having nowhere to put them. I can state that they sold their stock in the ordinary way of business, and they have bought fresh stock since the 1st of May to put on the mountains; they do that always.

4809. With regard to the case of Widow Rogers, who was referred to by Mr. Browne, will you state that case to the Committee?—I see, on reading over the evidence in the newspaper, that Mr. Browne stated that Widow Rogers had eaten a garden full of sea-weed.

4810. Will you state what you know of that case?—Widow Rogers was a very poor woman, whom I found 18 years ago located close to a turf bog, with four poor, weak children. I was going to put her out, and I said that I would not have her there at all; but she begged of me (and she is a woman of very great eloquence) to let her remain some time longer, until her children got stronger, and she would then give me no trouble. I did so, and she struggled on during the famine year with those children. In 1855 her son, who had grown a stout, strong young man, came to me, and said that he was able to pay rent for his place, and would now take the place into his own hands. I said, "You have never paid rent yet;" he said, "If you will give me a little more land than I have, I will come under rent, and pay it regularly." I then marked out a cut, he put up a better description of house, and he is now doing remarkably well; he has now a cow and a horse, a thing he never had before. I never stopped that woman, or any other tenant on my property from taking sea-weed, or anything else on the shore that they could get. That man and his mother live together, the other children are all hired out and gone away.

4811. Are the Committee to understand you to say that this women paid no rent for a number of years?—Not till her son grew up, in 1855, this was the first rent ever paid.

4812. You allowed her to remain without paying rent until her family became strong?—Yes.

4813. When they did become strong, the son volunteered to pay rent upon getting some more land?—Yes.

4814. Mr. *Maguire.*] What is the son's name?—I do not know what is the son's name; Rogers is the name on my book; I gave the receipt for the rent in the widow's name.

4815. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] What is the case of Michael Carrol?—He is a poor man, a shoemaker. It is alleged that he told the priest that he was dying at the time of starvation, and his house has been one of those always visited by the strangers.

4816. Do you mean by the strangers the newspaper reporters?—Yes, and the strange priests that came down.

4817. What was his case?—He is a shoemaker. He has a small tract of this cut-out bog, where he lives. His house is a stone house, poor in the inside, like some of the others; his rent is 15*s.*, and he has a horse. He came to me the other day about a dispute with regard to a turf bank between him and some other tenant, and he rode down on his own horse, and he told me, as I had heard before, that he had been unwell. He said he had been visited very frequently and that he had received 2*s.* 6*d.* from the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden. On the day that he visited me, he received some meal; I told him that he might have gone to the shore and made kelp, as he has three big boys able to work. He then said that his sons were working, and he hoped in a short time, to be able to buy a cow.

4818. When was that?—I cannot say the date; but it was about the end of May they got relief.

4819. This house, you say, was one that was always visited?—Yes, this house was one that was always visited; and I believe that Widow Rogers was another that was always visited.

4820. Lord *Naas.*] Does this man Carrol get any work as a shoemaker?—He does; a shoemaker's is the best trade in the country, because there is always something for them to do. He is a poor man, and I do not bring him forward as comfortable, but he is not in destitution.

4821. You do not deny that there is poverty, but you deny that there is destitution?—Yes; I deny that there is any destitution whatever.

4822. With regard to the mountains, it has been alleged by several witnesses that one of the principal causes of the destitution has been the proprietors depriving the people of the right to the mountains; so far as you are concerned will you let the Committee know exactly how that stands?—In every case that the Reverend Mr. M'Fadden instanced here of the distress of the people, in every townland, he said that I had taken the mountains from them. I have taken no mountains from any townland except in Upper Keeldrum; there I have taken 2,000 out of 3,600 acres, but all the other townlands have the same privilege of grazing upon the mountains as they have had for the last 50 years. I have never deprived one of them of the mountains, though it has been stated here several times.

4823. Those 2,000 acres that you took into your own hands, to whom did they belong?—It belonged to me.

4824. Who have the right of grazing on it?—The tenants have the right of grazing on it.

4825. What was your reason for taking it?—The electoral division of Gortahork contains about 13,600 acres; I cut those 2,000 acres off because it was at the extreme point from them; I found that they had a great deal too much mountain, in fact they had one-third more than they wanted, and I took those 2,000 acres, and arranged with the tenants that they should have their cattle upon the rest of it; and the Upper Keeldrum people, from whom this was taken, have now 1,600 acres left them, and they have the privilege of putting their cattle along with the other tenants over the rest of the mountain, I have had no difficulty with them; they are perfectly satisfied with the arrangement I have made.

4826. Mr. *Dobbs.*] How many families are there in Keeldrum?—I suppose there are 330 families in the electoral division of Gortahork.

4827. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You deprived no tenants of any mountain except in the townland of Keeldrum?—Just so.

4828. In the townland of Keeldrum you took 2,000 acres into your own hands because you thought and knew, I suppose, that the tenants had not nearly

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sufficient stock to stock it?—Just so; and I thought that I might as well make a grazing farm of it, and make some use of it as leave it lying waste.

4829. That 2,000 acres was subsequently let to one of the Scotchmen?—Yes.

4830. Lord *Naas.*] You give the Committee to understand that the tenants had not a sufficient number of cattle and sheep to use the grazing upon this 2,000 acres?—Certainly they had not. I have left them fully between 9,000 and 10,000 acres for their cattle.

4831. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You said there were 330 families; is that on the whole of your property?—I am talking only of one of the electoral divisions which belongs to me entirely.

4832. How many acres are there?—Thirteen thousand, six hundred acres.

4833. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] I will not ask you anything about the destruction of the sheep, as we shall get that from other witnesses; but there were a number of sheep, in your opinion, destroyed off the mountain, were there not?—Yes.

4834. It has been stated here that another cause of the destitution of the people is, that the rents have been universally raised, doubled, trebled, and quadrupled. Will you state to the Committee, in your case, what the facts are with regard to that?—In my case I have not raised the old rents at all, that is, the old arable land. When I came to manage the property it was all in rundale, and I divided it into farms; I gave each man his farm as he then had it, and at the same rent, and he is paying the same rent still for the same land.

4835. You divided it about 20 years ago, did not you?—From 15 to 20 years ago; and the rent upon the whole arable land is the same as it was then.

4836. Some of the Committee may not understand what rundale means; will you be good enough to explain it?—Rundale is where, we will suppose, five or six people will have a ridge or two in a piece of land about the size of this room, one a ridge of potatoes, and another a ridge of potatoes and corn.

4837. You divided the tenements so that every man knew his own holding?—Yes.

4838. At that time you laid upon them a rent, which rent they continue to pay, without having been raised?—Yes, with two exceptions.

4839. You state that the rents have not been raised upon any portion of your property, consisting of 17 townlands, with the exception of what?—With the exception of the places which I purchased in the Incumbered Estates Court, the townlands of Baltony and Cashel; on these the rents have been raised; but not upon the old holdings, as I have said.

4840. Lord *Naas.*] Where have they been raised?—Wherever I find in a townland that there is a large quantity of cut-out bog, and places where they take mire for their manure-heaps, and where they leave it bare of bog, in all those cases I have taken and cut off a portion round that townland, and I have given every man in the townland part of it, according to his farm; I have done this very carefully, in order to prevent disputing about it; and on that land I have charged a few shillings in the way of rent. If you take the total, it would appear a little raised, but that is the only way in which I have raised them. I am trying to increase their farms, instead of diminishing them; and in everyway I can I try to get more land into their holdings, for small holdings are their ruin.

4841. Are they cutting turf in those places?—No; I have done this after the turf has been cut off.

4842. Are they going on reclaiming those bits?—Yes.

4843. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] In point of fact, that is an addition to their rent, in consequence of an addition of land, the old rent of the old land still remaining the same?—Yes, exactly.

4844. With regard to the townlands that you purchased, you raised the rents on them, did you not?—I raised the rent of them. I purchased Lower Baltony and Cashel Hill; the rent, when I purchased Baltony, was 71 *l.* 15 *s.* 2 *d.*; I raised it to 100 *l.* 16 *s.*

4845. Was that upon the falling in of an old lease?—Yes, there was a very old lease, it had not been set for, I suppose, 80 or 90 years before, and there was an old lease against half of it, the valuation upon which, made by a Mr. Bowen when it was put up to sale, was 104 *l.* 3 *s.*; the Government valuation is 94 *l.* 2 *s.*, and my rent is 100 *l.* 16 *s.* There are 394 acres in the townland, set at 5 *s.* 2 *d.* per acre.

4846. Is that the townland which appears in the valuation as Lower Baltony?—Yes.

—Yes. In Dougherty's Town, part of Cashel Hill, I raised from 10 *l.* 5 *s.* to 15 *l.* 2 *s.*; it contains 52 acres, 2 roods, 37 perches. The valuation of that townland, when I purchased it in the Incumbered Estates Court, was 15 *l.* 8 *s.*; Mr. Griffiths' valuation now is 22 *l.*

4847. Mr. *Maguire.*] Does not that valuation include two other townlands?—No.

4848. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] There was a case of a man, of the name of Hugh M'Cafferty, who was stated by the Reverend Mr. M'Fadden to have paid a fine of 5 *l.* upon entering one of those new cuts; that was upon your property, was it not?—Yes.

4849. Will you state to the Committee what the circumstances and facts are?—In dividing the townland of Meenlara I made a new cut, which did not belong to the tenants; and I said to the tenants that if any of them wished to have that new cut, I would grant it to them at 1 *l.* a year rent.

4850. How long ago was this?—I think it was in the year 1850. It is close to the shore, and there is a great abundance of sea-weed. No one in the townland would take it: they wanted me to take, and cut it up, and share it among them, which I would not do: I would have it in one cut. They would not take it themselves nor allow anyone else to take it; and I said, "I will mark this cut off, and I will keep it, and charge 1 *l.* a year rent, as long as, it shall remain unlet, to whoever takes it; I will not be intimidated." At last, this Hugh M'Cafferty was married in the town, and he quarrelled with his father-in-law, and wanted to get a place for himself; he came to me for this place, and said that he was very willing to pay the rent that was due on it, if I would give it to him; he said he did not mind the tenants objecting in any way. He paid me four years' rent that was due, and the rent for the year.

4851. That was arrears that had accumulated?—Yes.

4852. Lord *Naas.*] What was the size of this cut?—I think theer was 9 or 10 acres in it. It was very convenient to the shore; and the very week after he got it he was offered 12 *l.* for the same cut by another man; and this year he would get from 20 *l.* to 24 *l.* for it.

4853. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] He wanted to hold that?—Yes, he is getting relief. He is living in a sod house; he has one horse and four cows.

4854. Will you explain to the Committee something about those sod houses?—I must begin first to explain something about the new cuts, because Mr. M'Fadden has stated that I have been in the habit of making a number of new cuts, and setting them out to tenants and charging them for them. I think I have only given five new cuts altogether since 1848 (this Hugh M'Cafferty has one of them); it is a thing I do not approve of at all; the greater number of those in the townland of Derryconnell, 15 or 16, my father gave in 1842. These men, when they get a new cut, go and build a sod house upon it, and live in it until they reclaim some land, and have got stones to build another house; I think that they rather like the sod houses; they think they are rather warmer than the stone houses, and it is very difficult sometimes to get them out of that habit.

4855. Is it a fact that a great many of those new cuts were taken by men that had other lands?—In many cases I have given additions to tenants' farms by those cut out bogs, which I have explained, and which Mr. M'Fadden has set down as all new cuts, but they are only additions to their farms, and I have only put five additional persons out to build five additional houses for the last 10 years. There was a case mentioned by Mr. M'Fadden of William M'Gonagle who got one of those new cuts, and that I charged him 1 *l.* 5 *s.* for it in Ardsbeg. This man is a most respectable tenant, and Mr. M'Fadden pretended not to know that he had a farm in another part of the townland. He asked me to give him this additional farm; he has a good horse, a cart, and cattle, and everything of that kind. I gave him this cut, and charged him 25 *s.* a year rent for it, and if he has put up a sod house I am not aware of it; but it must be very lately, for his own convenience, when he takes his cattle over for grazing purposes, being some distance from his farm; in that case a number of those houses are built for temporary convenience.

4856. Lord *Naas.*] Has he a stone house on his farm?—A very good stone house about a mile off; he is a respectable man, and a remarkably well dressed man; he is constantly seen going to chapel every Sunday.

4857. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is he on the relief list?—I should think not. I cannot

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make out, from this return, whether he is or not. He was alluded to as one of the people living in a sod house, and that his was one of the worst the strangers were brought to see.

4858. Are you positive that he is alluded to?—If you read Mr. M'Fadden's evidence, he brought forward the case of William M'Gonnagle, who lived in this bog, was charged 25 *s.*

4859. Did he represent him as a destitute person?—The impression on my mind was that he was brought forward as a specimen of destitution.

4860. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Was it your impression that he was brought forward to the Committee as living in a sod house, as a specimen of the destitution of the country?—Yes.

4861. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was his name mentioned for the purpose of showing that you, as his landlord, charged rent for those new cuts?—I do not know the object.

4862. Was not it in connexion with that he was asked the question you think?—I do not know.

4863. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You have heard a good deal of the evidence given before this Committee; will you explain about Hugh Boyle?—He is one of the five that I have put on the new cuts; he quarrelled with his step-father, and asked me to give him a place for himself; he is now married. I was speaking to him the other day about his house, and he told me he had a sod house put up, but he was quarrying stones for another alongside of it. I considered that this was the case Mr. Holland alluded to, but the old system on my property was to give a man a new cut, and let him remain there seven or eight years and charge no rent. All these people got farms from my father in 1842, and I never have got them to pay rent till the last year or two; they have had them always free, so I determined to change that system, and that when I gave a man a new cut I would make him pay rent on getting it, and I give him his receipt up to the November following; and that accounts for the apparent rise in the rent of the townlands, from those additional cuts coming in.

4864. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] We have heard a great deal about sea-weed, will you state to the Committee what you know about the habits of the people with regard to their using a great quantity of sea-weed?—I never did hear until this appeal was published that any one subsisted on sea-weed; and I never knew a case of a person subsisting on sea-weed.

4865. Do you believe it now?—I do not.

4866. Have you read the appeal signed by so many clergymen?—I have.

4867. Have you seen in that appeal that 800 families are subsisting on sea-weed?—Yes. It says, that "there are this moment 800 families subsisting on sea-weed, crabs, cockles, or any other edible matter they can pick up along the sea-shore, or scrape off the rocks."

4868. Can you explain to the Committee what is the habit of the people with regard to the use of sea-weed?—Until this appeal was got up, I always thought that the sea-weed I saw them gathering, was what I call sloke; you call it in England laver. There is another thing that they gather, called dolamaun, that is the points of the sea-weed; but I do not think it is edible after the 1st of May; it gets coarse; but I consider that when they pick it, it is for a sort of relish to their potatoes, and it is a sign that they have plenty of potatoes in the country, for they cannot eat it with meal.

4869. Lord *Naas.*] Did they ever complain to you that they were obliged to use sea-weed?—No. I do not believe there is a man in the country who could live on it.

4870. Do you think that if they were obliged to eat that sea-weed in any quantities, they would have complained to you?—I think they certainly would, and as to the idea of men living upon what Mr. M'Faden stated the other day, the slack-marragh, a thing that is as thick as your arm, it is out of the question.

4871. Did you ever see them eat this (*handing some sea-weed to the Witness*)?—Yes; a part of this, a thing which we call dillisk, is a good thing when it is boiled; but I doubt if they eat such a thing as some of this sea-weed; I never heard till the appeal was published that they ever lived upon it.

4872. You are constantly in the habit of being on the sea-shore, are you not?—Yes.

4873. Did you ever see them gathering it?—I could not say. I see them picking

picking sea-weed, and they pick dillisk and sloke, and the points of the wrack at some times of the year, but I could not tell exactly.

4874. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] With regard to what they call slackmarragh, you are satisfied that they do not use it to any extent?—The only way I have ever seen them using it is as a stick for driving a horse, or carrying it in their hand, but I think it is impossible for any man to eat it.

4875. Do you know of your own knowledge that many farmers, in good circumstances in the country, use this sea-weed more or less as a relish for their potatoes?—Yes, if they use it at all they use it just as laver. I think it is very little used. I have seen very little of it; I have seen children picking it along the shores, but I do not know much about their use of it.

4876. Will you explain to the Committee what is meant by duty days, or is there such a thing in your district?—Duty days are nearly all exploded; I can show the Committee that my property was all set on lease in old times, and I see the duty days there are marked on the back of the leases, so many days for cutting turf and other things. But I did away with all that; it is work I do not like myself, and I did away with it, with the exception of one day that I ask the tenants to give me to cut my oats. They come to me at breakfast time about 10 or 11, and they stay till half past six; I give them dinner, with bread and milk; I keep this up, because I could not get my oats cut in any other way.

4877. Do they consider it any hardship?—Not at all. I have never had any reason to complain of them in any way; they would always come if I wanted them. There are a number of cases, since the 1st of May, of persons getting relieved, which I can explain to the Committee.

4878. What is that list which you have before you?—This is the list which I have taken from Mr. M'Faden's book, of the persons who have received relief since the 1st of May. Up to the 1st of May it was confined to those who paid sheep tax; since the 1st of May it has been general through the country.

4879. Will you read what you have on that list?—I find Kate M'Ellay of Drummitiny, she is a cottier on my property; she is No. 422 in Mr. M'Faden's book; she has a son and a daughter, the son is constantly working with me at 10 *d.* a day, and the daughter at 4 *d.* a day; the mother is a remarkably well dressed and clean woman, and I believe she is down for 1½ cwt. of meal; I find in Cashel Hill, a place that is alluded to which I purchased, a man of the name of Neddy Gallagher of Cashel Hill, No. 496, in Mr. M'Faden's book; he has a horse and five cows. James Gallagher of Cashel Hill, No. 498 in Mr. M'Faden's book, has a horse and four cows. Edward Gallagher, No. 499, in Mr. M'Faden's book, has a horse and five cows. James M'Cue of Killult, No. 115 in that book, was a witness summoned here, and he is a contractor for the road from Cross-roads to the Gweedore Hotel, eight miles; he has got a horse and cattle, and I have always considered him a respectable man, and I see he is down in Mr. M'Faden's book as having received half a cwt. of meal.

4880. Mr. *Maguire.*] There are two James M'Cues, are there not?—I do not know; I never heard but of one; Edward Whooriskey of Killult, is a man who last March paid 40 *l.* for a farm in addition to his present farm to Mr. Stewart of Hornhead; and he has had half a cwt. of meal.

4881. Do you know that that man has got relief from the application of the Protestant clergy?—I do not; I only know from this book; I do not see the name of Hugh Doherty, of Cashel townland, a tenant of my own, No. 536 in Mr. M'Faden's book; that man I paid myself in the month of March, 18 *l.*, a debt that was due to him by Mr. Johnston, the former proprietor. He has a horse and three cows, and he is on the relief list; I see Charles Kennedy, a butcher at Cross-roads, on the relief list, No. 539; I see that man constantly going about with his basket of mutton on his arm, selling it, and I have been obliged within a short time to fine him three times for being drunk; he came to me with a 1 *l.* note that had been partly burnt lighting his pipe, and he wanted me to replace it.

4882. Is that man on the relief list?—He is No. 539, on Mr. M'Faden's book. I will give the Committee the case of Ann Doherty, of Cashel; she is No. 532 on Mr. M'Faden's list; she was married about two months ago to a man of the name of Doherty, of the same townland; and I gave her 9 *l.* in the month of May last, a debt of Mr. Johnston's due to her. I will also give the case of

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Daniel M'Ginlay, of Gortahork, No. 181 in Mr. M'Faden's book; that man has a horse and three cows; he is a man that has been, for the last two months or more, building a wall for me, and he has been making 1 *s.* 8 *d.* a day: in fact, in the whole book, if I go over it, I do not know of one case of destitution. There is another man, of the name of James Mulheron, of Gortahork; he is building a wall, and is making 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a day, and he is No. 537 on Mr. M'Faden's book.

4883. Lord *Naas.*] Do you know all those persons personally?—Yes, personally; I picked them out of Mr. M'Faden's book because I knew them.

4884. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] From your knowledge of the country generally, do you believe that it would be possible for any stranger to form any opinion as to the real condition of the people from their appearance?—Quite impossible.

4885. You heard the evidence of Mr. Sharman Crawford, did you not?—I did.

4886. He stated that the exterior of the houses was generally comfortable and clean in the district that he travelled through?—Yes.

4887. He also stated that the interior was just the reverse; how do you account for that?—I cannot really account for it; but there are always houses in that dirty state; they keep their cows in the house, and they do not appear to have any comfort at all; but I know that many of those people in those wretched houses could give me 20 *l.* or 30 *l.* I think that the house is no criterion at all; I can hardly get them to whitewash their houses; they complain, if they are whitewashed, that it makes them sick, and they cannot bear it; they are not accustomed to it.

4888. Lord *Naas.*] You find it difficult to get them to keep the cows out of their houses?—I do not think it would be possible, it may be done by degrees in the course of a very long time.

4889. Do they keep pigs?—Yes, but not at this season of the year; there are a few pigs among some of the larger farmers.

4890. When they have pigs do they keep them in the house too?—I dare say some of them do. I see also a case in that return of Mr. Doherty's and Mr. M'Faden's which struck me as very strange: Mr. Doherty states that there are 1,800 families in the district; 800 are in destitution, and 1,000 families are so well off that he would not ask relief for them; and yet in his book Mr. Doherty returns 900 families as having received relief, and Mr. M'Fadden returned 750 families; so that there are 1,650 families receiving relief.

4891. What book are you speaking of?—Mr. Doherty's.

4892. Are you certain that it is not Mr. M'Gee's book?—Mr. Doherty handed it in; it may be Mr. M'Gee's book.

4893. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did you examine the books?—I did.

4894. Are you certain that some of the names do not appear twice?—It says families. I cannot say that they are; but the number of each family is given in the book. I think Sir John Yarde Buller asked a question about 1,000 persons being well off; but I make it 1,650 relieved out of 1,800.

4895. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You state that there are 1,650 families who appear on the lists given in as having received relief?—Yes, whereas the statement is that only 800 are in absolute destitution.

4896. You infer that other families must have got relief that did not want it?—I infer so; and the Committee will see that in the evidence given by Mr. Doherty himself they have returned 800 families as all that, according to Mr. Doherty's statement, require relief.

4897. In fact, to sum up your evidence, you deny that there is this destitution which is alleged?—I do positively deny it.

4898. You state distinctly that your rents have not been raised, except in the cases that you have mentioned?—Yes, I do.

4899. And you state distinctly that you have not taken any mountains from the people, except in the cases already mentioned?—Yes; in the townland of Upper Keeldrum I have taken 2,000 acres of mountain in the Gortahork electoral division.

4900. Lord *Naas.*] Do you know the district of the Rosses which has been alluded to?—I only know it from passing through it.

4901. What is the appearance of the people there?—Much worse; the houses are much worse. I do not think you will find any mountain district that I know of, in driving through and looking at it (if you saw it in its proper state) that

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is better off than Cloughaneely in appearance. With regard to the houses, when I came there there were only 10 or 15 slate houses, but now I think that there are 120 on my own property slated.

4902. Though it is still a very poor district, it is not worse, or rather it is better, than districts similarly situated upon that coast?—It is, I am sure of it; I think that they are a great deal better off. I think their stock is greatly increased, and I have not seen anything to cause any reduction of the stock.

4903. How long have you been the proprietor?—I have been acting there for 20 to 25 years.

4904. Do you think that there is a greater number of stock in the possession of the tenants now than there was 20 years ago?—I am sure that there is treble the stock, and there is a great deal more of reclaimed land than there was 20 years ago, I should say fully one-third more, and they were reclaiming very much, but this has checked them completely.

4905. Why do you think that this has checked them?—They have got into this idle begging habit, hunting after this relief; they spend nearly a week looking after half a cwt. of meal, and they have given up all kind of work. Formerly making kelp was a great trade. On the first week in May on one townland on my property fully 3,000 *l.* worth of sea-weed came in; the oldest person in the country never remembered such a quantity coming in, and in the townland of Magheraroarty, upon which I am said to have raised the rents so considerably, from 75 *l.* to 85 *l.*, they have at this moment, I suppose, 400 *l.* worth of kelp on the shore ready for sale.

4906. Is that all possessed by your tenants?—All; I do not stop the tenantry of other proprietors taking sea-weed, and they have taken a great quantity away.

4907. Do you wish the Committee to understand that 500 *l.* or 600 *l.* for kelp would be received entirely by your tenants?—I believe the principal part of it is on the townlands of Magheraroarty and Meenlara, two small townlands.

4908. You stated that they had been made idle by this system of relief; do you mean that they are not working on their holdings?—They are doing nothing; the women and children are just sitting about the roads doing nothing but fighting and wrangling to get half a hundred weight of meal. Since the 1st of May, six or seven weeks ago, to the time that I left home, I believe every family has had half a hundred-weight of meal, and if they are in destitution half a hundred-weight of meal would not do them much good.

4909. Were they usually industrious people in summer?—I think they were very industrious; they could every one of them support themselves by making kelp on the shore. I have known an instance of a man named Hugh Cannon; his wife got half a hundred weight of meal, and John Boyle, the man who gave it out by the priest's directions in the morning, went to the shore to get some sea-weed to manure his potatoes, and the husband of the woman who got the meal sold him 10 *s.* worth of sea-weed that evening that he had been drying for kelp.

4910. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Do you make any charge for the right of going to the shore for that sea-weed?—Not to the tenants; there was an old regulation, that if any other proprietor's tenants wanted to go to the shore for sea-weed, they should pay, I think, 3 *s.* for the privilege; it was an old arrangement, made in my grandfather's time; I never changed it, and I never charge anything for my own tenants.

4911. Lord *Naas.*] Do you allow your own tenants to sell it to other people if they do not want it themselves?—Yes, they do it.

4912. Do they draw it any distance?—Some of them draw it to Letterkenny, about 20 miles off, and some about Dunfanaghy, 10 miles off; it is dried like hay; you see it carted along the road.

4913. Mr. *Dobbs.*] How are your tenants supplied with fuel?—They have as much turf as they can cut for fuel, and I do not charge them for it.

4914. Have they the right of cutting turf without any extra charge?—They have.

4915. They can get any quantity of fuel without extra charge?—Yes.

4916. Lord *Naas.*] Do any of them fish?—They do along the shore, but not much.

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4917. Is not the coast suitable for fishing?—They get a good many fish; they get turbot, and cod, ling, and other fish.

4918. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] They get something better than cockles?—Yes.

4919. Have they any market for their fish?—I do not think they make any trade in fish about me.

4920. Mr. *Maguire.*] Are they all your tenants?—Yes.

4921. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Do your tenants dry the fish for their own use in winter?—Yes, they do; they do not make a trade of it; they work more about their potatoes and kelp making.

4922. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do they catch any lobsters on the coast?—They do a few, but not very many.

4923. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Is there any other matter that you wish to state to the Committee?—I do not know. I have a great many returns of many more cases that I could mention if the Committee wish, or I can hand them in.

4924. Lord *Naas.*] Are those people in the habit of coming to you when they want anything?—Yes.

4925. Has there generally been a good feeling between you and your tenants?—Yes, and there is at this moment. I believe they are perfectly satisfied with every arrangement I have made, and I am sure that if it were not for Mr. Doherty and Mr. M'Faden we should have had no trouble of any kind, or any talking about the mountains.

4926. Do they come to you with disputes among each other, to settle them?—Yes.

4927. Are you in the habit of settling them?—I am.

4928. And do you think that they have confidence in your judgment?—Yes; and they always come to me.

4929. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Do you consider that Mr. Doherty has interfered between you and your tenants?—Yes, I do. I consider it all interference on their part, and the tenants have often expressed to me their dislike to have anything of the kind going on.

4930. What is the nature of the interference?—The great cry that they have made out against me is for taking the mountains, which I have not done. I do not know what their object is, except to try and make a bad feeling exist between landlord and tenant. I have known them interfere very frequently when I have given additional pieces of land to the tenants, and they would not allow them to take them.

4931. To whom do you refer?—The Rev. Mr. M'Faden. When I would give a man an addition to his farm, if the people in the townland objected, and said that they should have it as well as the man to whom I had given it, or if they thought that I was giving too much to one, and not enough to the other, they would go to the priest, and he would say, "I will not let you take it; I will not give you the rites of the church if you do not give it up."

4932. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Among your tenants have you any of what we should term in England, cotters?—Very few.

4933. What number should you say?—I have something about four or five families, and those I have employed. I do not think altogether I have more than 10 or 12 on all my property.

4934. How do those four or five families, not holding land of any extent, live?—Those families live by work. I employ all those people about myself, and I gave an instance of a woman and her son and daughter working for me who get relief.

4935. How many persons have you in your employ?—I generally employ something about 25 or 26 people every day.

4936. Do you always employ that number?—Yes, on my farm.

4937. Do you employ them all at the same rate of wages, 10*d.* and 8*d.*?—I generally give them 8*d.* in winter and 10*d.* in summer; and I give the girls for weeding turnips, and that sort of work, in summer, 4*d.*; but it must be understood that that is for constant work.

4938. You state that you have only five families of this description?—That is all.

4939. Are you acquainted with them all?—Every one of them.

4940. Then do you say that none of those five families are in destitution?—None.

None. I see another labouring man that does not constantly work for me, named James Doogan, getting relief; he has a house of his own, and three of his children working and receiving 1*s.* a day.

4941. With regard to those five families, have they any portion of garden or plot of land to till at all?—Two or three of them have, and some of them none, only a house.

4942. That is all the information which you wish to give to the Committee with regard to the state of your own townland?—Yes. I could give plenty of information, but it would be of the same nature.

4943. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You are distinctly of opinion that the people are certainly not worse off than they were in the famine year, generally, in point of health or clothes, or food?—I think they are a great deal better off this year than they were in the famine year; in the famine year I never went out but I had numbers of people after me in great distress, and I was constantly employed giving out meal and different things to them, but now there is nothing of the kind; there was no person looking for anything until after the 1st of May, when this Committee was appointed, when the rush came down. I believe if the Committee had not been appointed, none but those persons who paid the tax would have got anything, and the rest would have got nothing.

4944. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Can you describe the clothing of the people of the Gweedore district; whether that has improved or not?—It has greatly improved latterly, for on Sunday there are 50 people wearing bonnets for one that used to wear them before.

4045. Is it sufficient for the purposes of decency?—Certainly.

4945*. M'Bride, the first witness, stated that the women went with their bosoms bare; do you think that is true?—I can hardly believe it.

4946. In the houses do you see this?—I did not see this, nor do I think that any one else has ever seen it.

4947. Mr. *Maguire.*] In what congregation did you see 50 bonnets, and what do you mean by saying that there are 50 bonnets to one that there was five years ago?—I consider that on a Sunday, meeting the people going to chapel, there are 50 bonnets going to Gortahork chapel for every one formerly, the improvement is so great.

4948. Would you say that there are 50 bonnets in the congregation of that church you are speaking of?—I could not state that, but I say in the proportion of 50 to 1.

4949. Were there five bonnets in the congregation formerly?—I do not know.

4950. Are there 50 now?—I believe there are.

4951. Are there 100?—I cannot say, but I am sure that for every one 10 years ago you would get 50 now; I do not know exactly how many.

4952. Will you say that there are 50 now?—Yes; I am sure there are.

4953. When did you see that congregation last?—I meet them almost every Sunday going to chapel.

4954. When did you meet them last?—I met some of them last Sunday week.

4955. Do you tell the Committee that there were five or 50 bonnets in the congregation?—I do not mean to say that I met 50 at all, but I am sure it is the case.

4956. I think you stated that you were the vice-chairman of the Board of Guardians?—Yes.

4957. And you are also a grand juror?—Yes.

4958. Did you attend at the sessions at which this matter of the sheep tax came on?—Yes.

4959. Did you take an active part?—As a magistrate I did.

4960. Did you as a grand juror take an active part?—Yes, just as a grand juror would do, but not more than any one else who is a grand juror.

4961. You were present at the first meeting of the Board of Guardians, I think, in February?—Yes.

4962. How many guardians were there present on that occasion?—I think there were three.

4963. Who were they?—Myself; and I think Mr. Robinson of Gweedore was there, Lord George Hill's agriculturist, and a Mr. Maddison of Do Castle.

4964. Did you consider it a special meeting?—No.

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4965. Why?—It was the usual meeting of the Board of Guardians.

4966. Is it usual to have an important resolution proposed without notice being given to the other guardians?—Sometimes we do not give notice, but if there is anything particular such as the election of a person we do.

4967. Such as the election of a matron, or an officer?—Yes.

4968. That you consider important?—Yes, I do.

4969. Did you consider that this appeal, which was made to the country by 10 Catholic clergymen was a trifling, or an important matter?—A very important matter.

4970. Why was not there notice given to the other guardians about this very important matter?—I will tell you the reason: a great many of the gentlemen connected with the Poor Law Board were absent; I was going myself to Dublin the next day, and seeing this appeal I was anxious to get an inspection made as soon as possible, and not allow the public to suppose that such distress existed. A resolution was proposed; there was not time to get more guardians; there would have been notice given if I had remained in the country.

4971. The only persons were you, a landlord, whether justly or unjustly, implicated in the matter?—Yes.

4972. And the agriculturist of Lord George Hill?—Yes; he is a guardian.

4973. Is he not a paid servant to Lord George Hill?—I believe he is.

4974. These and another were the only persons present?—Yes.

4975. Do you think that there was a fair representation of the Board of Guardians on that day?—Yes, I do. I went to the deputy vice-chairman of the Board of Guardians, Mr. Ramsay, of Dunfanaghy; he could not attend because he had the shipping of a cargo to attend to; but I laid the resolutions before him, and I consulted several guardians before, and advised with them and showed it to them, and every one that I mentioned it to approved of it very highly.

4976. You say that there was no public notice given of the resolution, and the resolution that day was adopted by you, a landlord implicated, and by the representative of another landlord charged, whether rightly or wrongly, with this distress?—We are very wrongly charged.

4977. I think you introduced the name of the deputy vice-chairman; have you authority for saying that the deputy vice-chairman approved of your proceedings?—I read the resolution to him and he approved of it.

4978. Did he at any time separate himself from you, and repudiate your proceedings?—Never.

4979. Did Mr. Ramsay refuse to attend that meeting?—He did; on the ground that his vessel was there, and he could not leave it.

4980. You have distinctly stated that there was no ground for the appeal that was made by those clergy?—I did.

4981. And I think you stated that it was the greatest imposition ever practised on the country?—I do say so.

4982. Is it not your direct interest to back up that statement before this Committee?—I do not see how it is my interest.

4983. Are you not pinned to the statement that you made at that time and on several occasions?—I agree in the statement of what I consider to be the truth.

4984. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Your interest is to tell the truth?—It is; it does not injure me; my tenants know the truth of what has been done by me, and I do not wish to be spared.

4985. Mr. *Maguire.*] With regard to this matter of the new cuts, I think you represented to the Committee that, in the case of Hugh M'Cafferty, the rent that you charged him was 4*l.* or 5*l.*?—I think that it is either 4*l.* or 5*l.*, the arrears on the place.

4986. What do you mean by the arrears on the place; who occupied it before?—No one occupied it before.

4987. Did any one ever occupy it?—No.

4988. This was a mere cut out of your property?—It was. In dividing the townland this cut was left on the outside, and the people wanted me to cut it up into several lots among them.

4989. Was it a strip of land cut out of your estate?—It was.

4990. Was it in a state of nature?—It was; it was where they cut their turf in olden times.

4991. Did you build a house upon it?—I did not.

4992. Did any one occupy it before this man took it from you?—No.

4993. What

4993. What do you mean by arrears?—I put a charge of 1*l.* upon it; the tenants of the town would not allow any person to take it. I would not be browbeaten by them, and prevented managing my property as I liked, and I said that I would charge 1*l.* a year while it lay vacant.

4994. At any rate this land was unoccupied by any other person?—Yes.

4995. Was this the first man that occupied it?—Yes,

4996. What person had the cut before that man?—No one.

4997. You charged him 5*l.* entrance money?—No; it was for arrears of rent.

4998. Due from no one whatever?—The arrears due for the last five years.

4999. Due from some imaginary persons. Did you give that man a receipt for that 1*l.* a year rent?—I think I did.

5000. Did you refuse to give that man a receipt this year unless he paid 1*l.* 10*s.* for that land?—I do not think that the man has come to me to pay his rent yet.

5001. Did you refuse either this year or last year to give that man a receipt unless he paid 1*l.* 10*s.* for that land?—I did not.

5002. Did that man pay 1*l.* the last time?—I should think he did.

5003. Did you give him a receipt for it?—I think so; I always give receipts.

5004. Did you give a receipt in that instance?—I am sure I did; I am sure that he got a receipt.

5005. Have you it down on your list as having given him a receipt?—Hugh M'Cafferty paid no rent last year, and he has not paid rent yet.

5006. Did or did he not give you 1*l.* rent?—He did the year before.

5007. Did you refuse to give a receipt unless he gave 1*l.* 10*s.* for that piece of land?—I did not.

5008. How many of those new cuts did you make last year on your property? I do not think I made any last year.

5009. When did you make them last?—I have only given five new cuts altogether for the last seven or eight years.

5010. Have you made as many as 20 new cuts?—I have given additional farms to old tenants, but no new ones.

5011. Was not that land that you made into new cuts in the possession of tenants before?—They cut turf off it, and they cut bog off it, for mire and so on.

5012. Has that been a benefit to the tenants or an injury?—I think it has been a great benefit; it enlarges their farms, they enclose them themselves, and they have additional turf banks outside them for cutting their turf for fuel.

5013. Do you charge entrance-money?—I charge the rent when they get a cut, and I give them a receipt up to November; and I do that because of the difficulty I have had in other cuts getting them to pay rent after they had been in possession 10 or 12 years.

5014. I suppose that all those cuts that you speak of represent the land in a state of nature?—Yes.

5015. And the tenant has to do every thing?—Yes.

5016. He has to build a house, has he not?—No, he has not to build a house; he has nothing to do but to ditch his land.

5017. Supposing he has to go and live on it, has he to build a house then?—My bargain is that they are not to go and live on it.

5018. You charge a man for this land in a state of nature the very first year he occupies it?—I do, and I think they work it much better for that.

5019. Mr. *Wykeham Martin.*] How much do you charge?—According to the proportion; sometimes it is 5*s.* 6*d.*; it is just according to the size.

5020. Mr. *Maguire.*] Do you ever, under any circumstances, go back to a distant date, and begin to charge an increased rent retrospectively?—No.

5021. Do you know a man named Charles Doogan, of Upper Keeldrum?—I do.

5022. What is his rent now?—His rent is 2*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*

5023. When was his rent raised to 2*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*?—I think it is three years ago, or two years ago; his last receipt is for 1854; he has not paid his rent very regularly.

5024. When was his rent raised; was it in 1857?—I think it is three years ago.

5025. Was it in 1857?—No, I think it was in 1854.

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5026. Have you a note of it?—I have a note of the date of the receipt.

5027. Have you a note of the date that it was raised to 2 *l.* 17 *s.* 6 *d.*?—No.

5028. What was it before?—It is only 5 *s.* more.

5029. When was it raised?—I think it was raised about three years ago.

5030. When did that man get the new cut?—He got it 14 or 15 years ago, and he never worked it.

5031. When did that man pay last?—He paid me last year.

5032. Did you give him a receipt last year for the 1st of November 1854?—That is the date of his last receipt, 1854. I cannot tell when he paid, but that is the date of his last receipt. That man owes me three years' rent; he has got relief in meal, and he has got five cows.

5033. Was that man's rent, up to 1856, 2 *l.* 12 *s.* 6 *d.*?—I am sure it was.

5034. Did you charge him for 1854, 2 *l.* 12 *s.* 6 *d.*?—I can only say that the date of that last receipt was 1854, and he has three years' back rent due.

5035. You deny that there was any distress this year?—I do.

5036. Were you applied to in 1855, in consequence of the alleged distress in your district?—The Rev. Mr. M'Faden asked me whether I would assist; and I said that if any of my tenants were in distress I would give them work, but I would not give them any meal.

5037. Did you believe that there was distress that year?—I did not.

5038. Do you know that the Roman-catholic clergymen have purchased, on their own credit, a large sum of money for Indian meal?—I did hear that they purchased some meal in Dunfanaghy, and the people paid them back.

5039. Is it likely that gentlemen of their class would engage themselves to the amount of 1,500 *l.* if there were not some real occasion for it?—It was no loss to them; they got the money back again; and if I were sure of getting money back in the same way, I would do the same as they did; but I think it is a very bad system, even if there was a little distress; I think it is a very bad system to supply people with meal.

5040. Do you know that the entire of that money has been returned to those gentlemen?—I do not know anything about it.

5041. You distinctly deny that there was distress at that time?—I did not see any, and I was living in the country; there may be, in the month of June or July, a few families, before the potatoes come in, that might want a half hundredweight of meal, or something of that sort.

5042. Do you know that the gentry of the neighbourhood also denied it?—I am sure they did.

5043. I think there has been a letter relied upon here written by some schoolmaster from Gweedore?—I can only give a general opinion of Gweedore; I cannot give the facts of Gweedore, but I can of Cloughaneely.

5044. This man's evidence was relied upon?—I would not answer for his truth at all.

5045. Were you in the habit of visiting the houses of the people of Cloughaneely before?—Yes, much oftener than the priests, and I know more about them.

5046. That you can positively say?—I can.

5047. Were you in the habit of inquiring into their circumstances?—I know their circumstances, from being mixed up with them quite as much as the priests. They are strangers there; I am not.

5048. You said that after having examined into two cases, you abandoned your inquiries?—I did.

5049. You abandoned your inquiries because you looked upon the hiding of the bed-clothes in the creel as a case of fraud?—I did.

5050. Is not it a common thing for the people who have no, what is called, tick, to gather up the bed-clothes in a creel?—I do not think it is; when they have a bed on the floor, they frequently roll it up in a corner.

5051. Pardon me, you did not say there was a bed; was there a bed in the house?—There was.

5052. What is your description of the bed?—There was a four-posted bed, with straw on it. I suppose it was straw.

5053. Did you examine it; was there a tick?—I did not examine it, but I think it likely there was no tick.

5054. There was neither the chaff bed nor straw in a tick, was there?—I could not say, but I think it likely there was not.

5055. It

5055. It was nothing but a bundle of straw covered over with some kind of covering?—Yes, there was a sheet.

5056. What period was that?—The 12th of May, after the inspections had taken place.

5057. Do you know that relief had been given at that time?—I do.

5058. What other house did you go into?—That of a man named Cannon, at the foot of the hill at Lower Keeldrum.

5059. If you were really inclined to know what the state of the interior of the people's houses was, why did not you endeavour to take them by surprise on various days?—I did take them by surprise on this day, for when I went to the first house there was no change then, but there was afterwards a rush, and I saw the people getting ready for me.

5060. Why did not you go on subsequent days?—Because it was perfectly useless.

5061. I think you stated that the same houses were pointed out to the strangers, whether of the press or whether of the church, and that on each day the same houses were pointed out, in fact that they were show houses?—Yes.

5062. Did you hear the evidence of Mr. Sharman Crawford?—I did.

5063. Do you think that Mr. Crawford is a witness upon whom the utmost reliance could be placed?—Not from the sort of information that he got; I would place no reliance upon that.

5064. Would you place no reliance upon the testimony of his eye-sight?—Not in the way that he was taken to the place.

5065. Did you hear the evidence of his son?—Yes.

5066. Did he say that he was taken through the place?—Yes.

5067. Do you know that gentleman accompanied by his son went from house to house as he pleased?—He was accompanied by a priest, for before Mr. Sharman Crawford had left the village of Cross Roads, I could tell the road that he was to take, and the reasons for his going that road.

5068. Lord *Naas.*] How could you tell that?—I heard it from the man, John Boyle, who was giving out the meal for the priests; they had left for London when Mr. Sharman Crawford arrived, and another priest went in company with him, and I asked John Boyle if Mr. Sharman Crawford had passed, for I had heard that he had been there, and I wanted to meet him; I asked him what road he was to go, and whether he was going the shore-road or the new road to the hotel, and he said that he was going along the shore-road; I asked why, and he said that there were some houses there to let, and he wanted to get on to Gweedore to see a gravel-pit, where, it was alleged, that a tenant of Lord George Hill had been put out, and he was obliged to sell his whiskey in the gravel-pit while his licence continued. I said it was very strange that he should go by the shore-road, for no one ever travels that road to Gweedore.

5069. Did you not hear Mr. Crawford and his son say that they went independently of any guides?—I did, but they did not go without guides.

5070. If Mr. Crawford and his son assert that they did, their word should be relied upon?—I do not think they went without guides, for this reason, that if they had gone by themselves they would have taken the leading road to the Gweedore Hotel, which every one goes by, and they would not have gone by a road on which there are no bridges.

5071. Was not the road that Mr. Crawford went the very best road to see the tenantry?—I do not think it was; it was the best road to see those two or three sod houses that he wanted to see.

5072. What do you mean by two or three sod houses; did Mr. Crawford confine his visit to two or three sod houses?—He went into those two or three sod houses, because the people told me so.

5073. Did he confine his evidence to two or three sod houses?—I think in that district he did.

5074. Did his son?—I think in that district he did.

5075. Did you hear Mr. Crawford, junior, say that he did not visit the same houses that his father did?—I heard him say that he went further into the mountain, but I do not know whether it was Gweedore or Cloughaneely alone; I could tell the houses he went into.

5076. Do not the great bulk of that population of that district live along the road that Mr. Crawford travelled?—I do not think they do.

5077. Is it not the most thickly inhabited?—The great bulk of the population

is along the shore; I think that if he had gone the new road through the townland of Keeldrum he would have seen quite as much of the people, and he would have seen the people that paid the tax, which the other way he did not see.

5078. Is not it along the shore?—No, the townland of Magheraroarty and others lie along that road.

5079. Is not the road travelled by Mr. Crawford called the Shore Road?—It is; but it is a road that no stranger ever goes along.

5080. Do you know the townland of Middle Keeldrum?—I do.

5081. Do you wish to represent to the Committee that there is no distress there, and that there was no occasion for the appeal?—No destitution.

5082. And no occasion for the appeal?—No occasion for the appeal, certainly.

5083. Do you wish to represent, generally, that the people have clothes, beds, stock, and money?—I wish to represent them as having clothes, and as having beds, such as they have usually and have always had, and I think that a great many of them have money too.

5084. Would you say that that was the case with the majority?—I do; they have sufficient to support themselves.

5085. Do you know the case of a man named Darby Curran?—I do.

5086. Would you say that that man had a bed to lie upon?—He has a sort of bed.

5087. Will you describe it?—I have not been in his house. Darby Curran is a national schoolmaster, and he is receiving a salary from the National Board for a school in Tory Island, and he has a farm which he holds from me in the mountain; he has always been a very poor man, and since he got this school he has been rather improving, and he has been able to pay me one or two years' rent, which he could not before.

5088. Is he now in the employment of the National Board or not?—I believe he is.

5089. Do you know that he has been dismissed?—He told me not; he was going into the school.

5090. Do you know whether he was dismissed five months ago by the National Board?—No, I do not know that.

5091. Has he a bed in his house?—He has. I have not seen it; but I know that the doctor visited him the other day, and he said that he had a bed, and that he was lying in a bed.

5092. Would you be surprised to hear that his children are obliged to go out to other houses at night to sleep, and that there is in fact in his house only, what is called by Mr. Underwood, a lair of straw?—I really do not know; he has a house as large as the others; it is built of stone, and thatched; I have not been in it for some time.

2093. Do you intend to represent this man as a comfortable man?—No, I do not; he is a sickly poor man.

5094. Do you know a man of the name of James M'Ginley?—I do.

5095. Has he any stock?—He has one cow.

5096. Was it a diseased heifer that was given him by a friend?—I do not know; I saw this animal before this inquiry was commenced. In April he told me that he was going to sell it; he had pledged a bit of his land two years ago, and I was scolding him for not having his own land in his own possession, and I said I would have to put him out of the farm if he did not get it back, and he said he intended to sell his cow and redeem the place.

5097. Has he any bed-clothes?—I think certainly he has.

5098. Have you been in his house?—Not lately.

5099. When were you in the house?—I should think I was there five months ago.

5100–1. Did you examine his bed?—No; but I saw a bed in the corner.

5102. You endeavour to represent to the Committee that those people are in a better state than they were before; will you describe what that man had to lie on at night?—He has the same bed that he has always had.

5103. Do you mean a sop of straw?—I do not mean a feather bed at all.

5104. We are not talking of feather beds; but had he a chaff bed?—I did not turn up the sheets and examine.

5105. Come now to the case of Cahil Curran; had he a bed?—I should think he had, for he married about three or four months ago.

5106. Are

5106. Are you certain that that man did marry six or eight months ago?—I heard that he did.

5107. Do you know that from your own knowledge?—No, except from hearing of it. I know the mother-in-law of his wife, and she told me that he was married.

5108. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You were not at the wedding?—No, I was not at the wedding.

5109. Mr. *Maguire.*] Were you in that man's house lately?—I have not been in that man's house this twelvemonths. I know that he has always been a poor man.

5110. Do you know whether that man's family are lying on the floor or not?—I do not know, I am sure; he is a poor man.

5111. Do you know a man of the name of Hugh Cullum?—Yes.

5112. Has that man bed and bedding?—He ought to have, and I am sure that he has. I was in his house seven or eight months ago; he is a most troublesome man, and I have had to make several visits to his house; he is always fighting and quarrelling with his neighbours.

5113. What is his condition?—I would say that there are poorer people than he is in the townland; he is a weaver by trade, I think.

5114. I ask you, has that man in his house either a bed or bedding?—I am sure that he has a bed.

5115. Why are you sure of it?—Because I do not believe that any man could sleep without it.

5116. Did you see that man's bed?—Not within these few months.

5117. When you were in that house, did you see it?—I did not really turn over the quilt and look what it was.

5118. Do you remember whether he had a bed or not?—I am sure he has; I do not think that a man could live without a bed.

5119. Never mind what you think; had he a bed?—He had a bed.

5120. What sort of bed was it; was it a feather bed?—I do not know about feather beds. I wish they all had them. That man has a cow and five sheep, and he is getting a quantity of this meal; so that I do not think he can be in that distress that Curran is in.

5121. Do you call a cow and four or five sheep a proper stock for him?—I do not.

5122. That man is a farmer, is he not?—He has a mountain cut, and he has been in that cut for 20 years.

5123. Would you represent that stock as sufficient to maintain himself?—No; but I think that the man would not have any reason to beg or starve as long as he has sheep.

5124. Do you know Hugh Ferry?—I do.

5125. Is that man in a comfortable position?—I do not know which Hugh Ferry you allude to; is it in Keeldrum?

5126. Yes.—I do know him; he is a very comfortable man; you must have made a mistake in that man, I think; he has a horse, five cows, and two sheep, and I gave him 10*l.* in March last.

5127. Lord *Naas.*] What did you give that to him for?—He had a farm which he was giving up to another person, and this money was part of his tenant-right, which was left for me to give him. This Hugh Ferry is the brother of Cullum Ferry, who is in a lunatic asylum.

5128. Mr. *Maguire.*] I am not speaking of him, but of Hugh Ferry of Upper Keeldrum; is he comfortable?—Yes; and he has built a new house lately, very nearly opposite to the mine.

5129. What on?—An addition that I made to his farm.

5130. Do you mean a new cut?—It was an addition. I do not call them new cuts, but additions.

5131. Is it a fact that that man is lying on straw and sticks?—I have not been in his new house, but I know that he has a cow and some sheep; it is a new house, which he has only got into the last two months.

5132. Do you know whether the stock that you say that man has is his own or his neighbour's?—I know that it is his own.

5133. How do you know that?—I have no reason to know that it is not.

5134. Have you any reason to know to the contrary?—No, but I think it is his own; I heard it from the man himself.

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5135. When you were speaking to the man, did he say that his cow was his own?—He told me that he had a cow, but I did not ask him the question whether it was his own or not.

5136. Has he not two cows grazing belonging to other people?—I do not know; he told me that he had one, and I have put him down as having one.

5137. I think you were speaking of Widow Whooriskey, of Upper Keeldrum; do you know her?—I do know her.

5138. Is that woman in a comfortable position?—No; she is very poor.

5139. Is she a tenant of any person?—She is a tenant of mine.

5140. Would you say that her house is a comfortable one, or one of extreme destitution?—I say that she is a very poor woman; her husband was found dead in the snow this year, and she was put to a great deal of expense on account of the funeral. He had 19*s.* in his pocket when he was found. She is very poor; she has no stock, and I put her down as very poor.

5141. Was that money which he had in his pocket the wages of his daughter, who was at service?—I do not know; I considered it his own, as he carried it in his pocket.

5142. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] What do you suppose that he died of?—He had been drinking at Gweedore, and it was very deep snow, and he laid down by the roadside, and it is supposed that he died of cold.

5143. Was any coroner sent for?—Yes, and the coroner came within 10 miles of the place; but the snow was very deep, and his carriage was upset, and he was obliged to go back.

5144. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did you say that that man died of drink?—I believe he was drunk.

5145. Was there any inquest held on his body?—I believe not.

5146. Did you ever hear the people deny that he died of drink?—No, I did not; I saw a man who told me that he had given him some drink.

5147. You are not certain that that man died of drink?—It may be; I heard that he had been drinking.

5148. Do you know Widow Conaghan, of Upper Keeldrum?—I do.

5149. What are the circumstances of that woman?—I should say that she is a poor woman.

5150. Has she a bed in her house?—I have not been in her house.

5151. Do you know that her son and herself are lying upon one wisp of straw?—I do not, because I think it would be a great shame if they were; for he is a stout able boy, and strong enough to work.

5152. Would you call her's a dwelling house or a hovel?—I do not call it a good house, and I have been very anxious to make her put up a better one, but I cannot make her do it.

5153. Has that woman any stock?—I think that she has a cow and some sheep; I have not the return here, but I know that she has a cow.

5154. Has she a cow of her own, or is she grazing it for others?—I do not know; she has a cow in her house.

5155. Did you hear that that women was 24 hours without having tasted food before she was relieved by those gentlemen who have made this appeal to the world?—Indeed I did not; and I think it would be a great shame to keep her so long without food, if they had so much money in their hands.

5156. Was not the money only coming in gradually at that time?—They had a good deal of it, for two months, in their hands at that time.

5157. Had they not many applications for relief?—Not till after the 1st of May; at least they gave none.

5158. Are you positive of that?—I am.

5159. What proof have you of that?—First of all, the notice that no man was to get it but those who had paid the tax; my impression certainly was that the relief was confined to those townlands that had paid the tax up to the 1st of May, and I got a return of the first relief that was got before that.

5160. Do you deny that the woman Conaghan got relief in April?—She did, no doubt; she paid the tax, and she got it; she is in Upper Keeldrum, where they paid the tax.

5161. Of what nature was the relief that was given to that woman; was it in money to pay the tax?—Meal is what I have returned in my list.

5162. Do you know Owen Gallagher, of Ballynas, and would you say that that man is comfortable?—No, he is a poor man.

5163. Does

5163. Does not he live in a slate house?—He does.

5164. Are that man's clothes in such a condition that he cannot go to chapel on Sunday?—I do not know; I see him every day, and he is on that townland where a witness said they did not require relief.

5165. Is that man able to attend chapel on Sunday?—I think he is.

5166. When did you see him last?—About 10 days before I left home; he is a fisherman.

5167. When did you examine his house last?—Not for some time.

5168. Has he a bed?—I am sure he has.

5169. What would you say that his bed was composed of?—I do not know; I did not see his bed.

5170. You are sure that he has a bed, but you know nothing of it, and you have not been in the house?—Just so; I do not know whether he has received relief; he is not in this book of Mr. M'Fadden's, and he has had no relief, I think.

5171. Did not Mr. M'Fadden make an addition at the end of the book?—I have looked over the additions, and I cannot find his name; he is not returned.

5172. Do you know that that man has been obliged to eat sea-weed twice in a day?—Indeed I do not believe it, and I can give a reason; he is a fisherman, and he catches a great deal of mullet, and things of that sort in my salmon-net, and I give those things to the fishermen myself, and I am sure that he never eats sea-weed.

5173. Sir *Edmund Hayes*.] He fishes for you, does he not?—Yes.

5174. All the kind of fish you speak of you give to the men?—Yes; there are four in the boat; I give all fish to those men, except salmon, and I do not believe that they ever live upon sea-weed.

5175. Mr. *Maguire*.] Would you wish to impress the Committee with the belief that the people of Meenagoppa are as badly off as the other districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely?—I consider that they are better off.

5176. Is it not the fact, that Mr. Stewart has preserved the mountains to those people?—He has.

5177. Do you know that it is the custom of those people to take cattle from other places and graze them upon the mountain?—I do not believe it. I think I may say that they do not. I think that they have all enough stock of their own; quite as much as they require for the ground that they have.

5178. You have given some evidence about the sea-weed, and I think you seemed to deny its general use. I ask you, does not sea-weed enter very largely into the food of the people of the district generally?—I do not think it does. Until this appeal had been got up, I never heard of sea-weed being used in the country for food, or of any one subsisting on it, nor do I think that any of them eat that common sea-weed. I think they eat sloke and dolamaun, and what you call here laver, and dillisk.

5179. Did you hear witnesses state that they saw the people using the very coarsest kind of sea-weed?—I did.

5180. Did you hear them say that they saw it in their houses, and mixed up with the food?—Yes.

5181. Do you positively deny, from your own knowledge, that they use this food?—I do; I believe a great deal was got up for the occasion.

5182. Do you know of your own knowledge that the people do not use it?—I am sure they do not; I am sure they do not live on it in the way you wish me to believe they do.

5183. One of the witnesses said that the people used it to prolong their potatoes?—Who is the witness; was he one belonging to the district?

5184. If four witnesses, if Hugh M'Bride, the Rev. Mr. Doherty, the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden, and another clergyman, have stated that the people do use it in that sense for the purpose of prolonging their potatoes, they would say what is not the fact?—I am sure they would with respect to Cloughaneely; they do not live on sea-weed in Cloughaneely.

5185. With regard to Michael Doohan, of Glasherhon, do you know of your own knowledge that the clergymen believed him as a destitute person?—I have Mr. Doherty's book for my reason; that is all I know. I see him entered in the book, and he told me himself that he got it.

5186. Do you know to the contrary of this, that the clergymen gave him a certain sum of money for the purpose of dividing it among destitute persons, for

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providing them with seed?—I do not believe that at all; the man told me himself that he received 4*l.* from the clergymen to divide among his neighbours as part of the tax.

5187. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] After paying himself?—He told me that 10*s.* was his share.

5188. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is there not another Michael Doohan?—There is, but not in that townland.

5189. Which Michael Doohan are you speaking of?—I am talking of the rich man, of Glasherhon.

5190. Are there two Michael Doohans on the same townland?—No; one is in Glasherhon, and another in Magherarourty Mountain.

5191. Is it to the rich Michael Doohan or the poor one that you refer?—The rich Michael Doohan; he told me so himself.

5192. You spoke of the Rosses, did you not?—Yes.

5193. You said that the appearance of the people there was much worse than in Cloughaneely?—I mean their habitations; I think they do look poorer.

5194. Would you say that the condition of the people is better or worse?—Worse I am sure.

5195. Do you know on whose property the condition of the people is much worse?—I do not.

5196. Is it the Marquis Conyngham's or Mr. Foster's?—I believe on the whole of the Rosses the appearance is worse than in this district; I do not know the particular property, I know nothing about it except riding through it.

5197. Do you include in that remark a place in the Rosses called Annagry?—I take just from Gweedore to Dunglo, or from Gweedore to Kilmacrennan.

5198. Talking of the first place, there is none of the Marquis of Conynghan's property in that direction you speak of?—There is; but I do not know it.

5199. Between Gweedore and Dunglo there is none of the Marquis of Conynghan's property?—I do not know.

5200. Do not you know the whole of the district?—Not that district; it is 25 miles from me, and it is in a different barony, and in a different parish.

5201. Are you not talking of a portion of the Rosses called Annagry, and are you not speaking of the district between the hotel and Dunglo?—I am; I should say that to a person taking a drive from the hotel at Gweedore, the appearance of the whole district is poorer than from Gweedore to me.

5202. Do you not pass from Annagry first?—Yes.

5203. Who is the proprietor of it?—Mr. Forster.

5204. Who is he?—He is an agent of Lord George Hills; it is 30 miles from me I suppose.

5205. I think you said the people have three times the stock this year which they had any other year; what year would you say?—Any year you like to take.

5206. Would you say the year 1853?—I would.

5207. How do you prove that?—I know parties that had no cows then, have two or three now; I took the police returns for the last three or four years, and there is a great increase of cows.

5208. Have you the police returns of former years?—No; I have not.

5209. Are you talking of your own prosperty, or of the district of Cloughaneely generally with respect to the increase of stock?—I speak with respect to my own property, because I know myself particularly all the facts.

5210. You are of opinion that on your own property the stock has increased since 1853?—Yes.

5211. Are you positive of it?—So far as I can judge, it has. I will take the townland of Glasherhon; they have 18 horses, 74 cows, and 261 sheep, going on in that way.

5212. How was that census procured?—By myself.

5213. Did you go to each house?—No; I asked almost every one the amount of his stock, and I asked two or three respectable men in the townland whether I was correct or not.

5214. Did you go round to each house?—Not to each house, but to almost every person; and then I questioned other persons, but I was more particularly anxious about those that paid the tax.

5215. Have you any knowledge as to Cashel Hill?—I have.

5216. What

5216. What is their stock now as compared with previous years?—I cannot tell it altogether, but I can of some of them.

5217. Between 1846 and 1858?—No; they were not mine at that time; but I can give you their stock now, and you can see whether they are fit for relief. James Gallagher has a horse and four cows, Paddy Gallagher a horse and four cows, Edward Gallagher a horse and five cows.

5218. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] All those are on the relief list?—Yes.

5219. Mr. *Maguire.*] How many cows has James Gallagher?—Four, I am sure.

5220. When did you see him?—About 10 days or a fortnight ago; but this account was before the 1st of May.

5221. What proof have you that James Gallagher on the 1st of May had four cows?—I heard it from people in the townland, several people. I sent my bailiff, and told him particularly to inquire and take the stock of those people; but they are late tenants, and I am not aware of their former circumstances. But I could give the reason why those people got relief; they got relief because their rents were raised. Mr. M'Fadden went to each house and gave them a ticket for a hundred weight or half a hundred weight of meal.

5222. Is that man reduced in circumstances, or improved?—I think he is improving since I purchased the property.

5223. Do you know what his stock was in 1846?—I do not.

5224. Would you be surprised if it was 19 cows, 2 horses, and 40 sheep?—I do not think so; I do not think that he could on his former land keep more than he has now.

5225. Was any mountain attached to his land?—No mountain at all. There are 158 acres in the townland; but whatever they had in the townland they have now all amongst them.

5226. Had he not the right of roving over the 2,000 acres which you have taken away?—No; he was not a tenant of mine; he was a tenant of Mr. Johnston's.

5227. Might not he pay for right?—Not at all. There are 156 acres in that townland, and they have that now. That is cut up among 9 or 10 families, and I do not think that they could keep 19 cows. It is set at 7*s.* 3*d.* an acre; and if they could feed 19 cows, it must be very low set on Cashel Hill.

5228. Do you know Paddy Gallagher on that townland?—I do.

5229. Is his stock reduced now, or is it the same as in 1846?—I cannot say; he is no tenant of mine then, but he has one horse and five cows, and that is as much as his farm can feed; I am certain of that.

5230. Has he more than two cows?—I am sure he has five.

5231. Has he any sheep?—I did not take in the sheep in that townland, because it is not large enough to have many sheep.

5232. You are positive he has more than two cows?—I am.

5233. Do you know if he had 12 cows at one time, one horse, and 15 sheep?—I do not know; I think it is impossible for him to feed them on his farm.

5234. Lord *Naas.*] If he had 12 cows, he must have paid for his grazing somewhere else?—Yes.

5235. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is there a man there named Paddy M'Garth?—I do not know.

5236. Has he not had a nickname, because he has a large stock?—I do not know.

5237. Is he not called Paddy of the heifers, in fact?—I do not know.

5238. Come to the case of Henry O'Brien; is that man's stock increased or reduced?—I do not know, because I have had those townlands so lately.

5239. Are you positive that he has a four-footed animal?—I have a return which shows that he has no cows.

5240. What was his condition in 1846?—He is a poor man.

5241. Had he stock at that time?—I do not know. In 1846 he was a tenant of mine; he lived in Glasherhon, and he sold his farm and went to America; and on his return he bought this farm in Cashel, because I would not take him in.

5242. Do you deny that in 1846 that man had five cows and one horse, and 15 sheep?—I do not believe he had.

5243. Do you believe that he had any in 1846?—I do not know positively, but I am sure he had not.

5244. He has not now?—He has not now.

5245. His circumstances are not improved, are they?—I do not know.

5246. His stock is not much increased?—No; I do not think he will ever have much stock.

5247. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Is he a tenant of yours?—He is on that land that I purchased.

5248. You found him upon the land that you purchased?—Yes.

5249. Mr. *Maguire.*] Come to the case of Widow J. Gallagher on Cashel; has her stock increased?—She has a cow.

5250. How many horses has she?—I cannot tell.

5251. I suppose when you say you cannot tell, you mean that she has none?—I should think so.

5252. Has she any sheep?—I have not any return of sheep.

5253. Can you give me a return of that woman's stock 10 years ago?—She was not a tenant of mine; I knew nothing at all about her. I have known her one year and a half.

5254. Was she on the property 10 years ago?—I do not know.

5255. You do not know that that woman, 10 years ago, had six cows, one horse, and 20 sheep?—I do not know; I do not see why she should be so reduced.

5256. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do you know what land she had 10 years ago?—No.

5257. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is not the land she has now the same land she had 10 years ago?—It is the same as when I purchased the land.

5258. Is there any mountain?—There is no mountain.

5259. Mr. *Maguire.*] Do you know anything of James Gallagher on Cashel Hill selling a portion of his stock to pay the increased rent?—I do not know. He has four cows and a horse now, and I do not believe that he sold his stock to pay his rent; he did not express any distress or poverty to me when I sent to him for his rent.

5260. Was his rent increased?—It was. The rent of that townland has been increased from 28 *l.* to 38 *l.*

5261. Do not three of those four cows belong to his father?—No. I do not know. I should think that whatever belongs to his father belongs to him, as they both live together, and he has got his father's land.

5262. Do you know a woman of the name of Susan Gallagher?—I do not think there is a tenant of that name in the townland; I have only one Widow Gallagher, and that is the only widow in the townland; I do not believe there is another widow in the place.

5263. I am speaking of a woman named Susan Gallagher?—I have a woman named Widow James Gallagher, perhaps the woman you speak of is a tenant of Mr. Johnston's in Cashel.

5264. Has she not some portion of your land that you know of?—Not any that I know of.

5265. Do you know a man named Edward Gallagher?—I do.

5266. Has his stock much increased since 1846?—I cannot tell the increase; I can tell the stock that he has now.

5267. You say the stock generally has increased?—He has a horse and five cows now; quite enough for the size of his farm. I would not wish to see him too overstocked. I suppose he holds eight or nine acres.

5268. You are certain that he has more than two cows?—I am.

5269. Who made out that return?—I did, from the people themselves.

5270. Did you ask Edward Gallagher how many cows he had?—No; but I am sure he has a horse and five cows.

5271. Do you know that that man was himself asked how many cows he had?—I did not ask him, but I sent a person from house to house.

5272. If it were said that that man had but two cows, would you believe it?—I would not.

5273. How many horses has he?—One.

5274. How many sheep?—I do not know how many sheep.

5275. What stock had he in 1846?—I cannot tell; it was not my property then.

5276. You cannot tell whether he had 20 sheep in 1846?—No.

5277. You

5277. You cannot say that has increased?—No; but I think he has as much as his farm can keep.

5278. Come now to widow William M'Fadden, on the same townland; has her stock been increased?—Widow M'Fadden has four cows.

5279. Are you certain she has four cows?—I am certain that widow Hugh M'Fadden has four cows; her husband died this year.

5280. When had she those four cows?—Before the 1st of May; she had them within a fortnight ago, I think.

5281. Were all the statistics taken by your bailiff before the 1st of May?—No.

5282. Why?—Because I confined my inquiry then to the police tax; and then from the 1st of May I made other inquiries.

5283. Were the statistics taken before the 1st of May?—Not on that townland.

5284. Did you not leave home on the 1st of May?—No, I did not, I left the 10th June to come here.

5285. How can you vouch for the accuracy of those statistics?—She may have sold her cows since I left home; I cannot say as to that.

5286. You cannot say that this woman had 12 sheep in 1846, and three now?—No; but if she had three now she ought not to have had relief till she had eaten those sheep first.

5287. Come now to Baltoney; what can you state about that?—I cannot give much information about Baltoney.

5288. Is not that your property?—It is; but I have purchased it lately; I have not got a return of the stock there.

5289. Whom did you purchase it of?—Mr. Johnston, a year and a half ago. I heard that Mr. M'Fadden went to the houses on Cashel Hill, Doherty's Town, and had given them some tickets at their houses because their rents were raised, and that made me send and get the stock; I did not hear that he had done it in Baltoney in the same way.

5290. Do you know the names of the tenantry on this Lower Baltoney?—I have the names, but I cannot tell their stock.

5291. Do not you say that you know the people in Cloughaneely better than the clergyman?—Yes.

5292. You, the landlord of this townland, seem to be ignorant of the quantity of stock that they have?—Yes; but I have been only there a year and a half, and I cannot have the same knowledge that I have of those who have been my tenantry 25 years.

5293. Can you tell me how many families there are in that townland?—Forty or 42.

5294. How many families are there in that townland that are without stock?—I do not believe there are three; I have no return of them.

5295. Yet you say you know more about the people of Cloughaneely district than the clergymen do?—On my own property I do.

5296. Is not this on your own property?—Yes; but I have lately purchased it. I have not had time to get that knowledge of them that I have of other places in the district.

5297. Will you refer to your notes, and say whether you know the name, and know anything of the circumstances of a man named Henry Doogan?—I do.

5298. Has he stock or not?—I think he is a poor man.

5299. Has he either a cow or a horse?—I think he is a poor man, but I cannot answer the question.

5300. At any rate, you cannot boast of his stock?—No, I cannot.

5301. Has Charles O'Brien any stock?—I am sure that he has a cow.

5302. Are you positive of that?—I think so.

5303. When did you see this man, so as to know anything about him?—I see him frequently.

5304. Were you in his house?—They are pulling down their houses; and it is that takes me among them.

5305. Did you inquire into their circumstances?—No, but I frequently see their cows on their land.

5306. Do you know that that man has a cow?—I am sure that he has a cow, but I will not answer for anything but a cow.

5307. If it were asserted that that man had no cow, would the person who made that assertion be telling an untruth?—I think he would.

5308. Come to the case of Kate Boyle, in the same townland; has that woman any stock?—I am sure she is a poor woman, and has a very small bit of land.

5309. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] How much would you say was the extent of her land?—About half a cow's grass, which I suppose would be a couple of acres.

5310. Mr. *Maguire.*] Had she a larger quantity of land when you came into possession of that property than now?—No.

5311. Had she two cows' grass then?—No, she had not.

5312. Had she two cows then?—I do not know.

5313. Has she any now?—I do not know.

5314. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Can you give the Committee any idea of what the extent of a cow's grass is?—In that townland I should say it is about four acres; it varies according to the quality of the soil; cows' grass is arable land.

5315. Mr. *Maguire.*] Will you refer to the name of Nelly Gallagher, or Widow Doogan; has she any stock at the present moment?—I am sure she has.

5316. What stock has she?—I am sure she has a cow, and she may have a great deal more; I have not a return.

5317. You gave the names to the Committee yourself; and I want to show whether it is quite exact that the stock has increased or not; that is my object?—I cannot state as to the increase of the stock in that townland; it is quite a different thing from the rest.

5318. Do you know anything about a man named Jack Broggan?—I do.

5319. Has he cows now?—Yes.

5320. How do you know that?—From the circumstances of the man; he has a good deal of land, and he has a larger farm than most in that town.

5321. Do you know whether that man has stock or not?—I am sure he has.

5322. What proof have you that he has?—From my own knowledge of the place.

5323. Have you been in his house lately?—Yes, I have been in his house several times.

5324. Had he cows on the 1st of May?—I am sure he had two; I cannot be very positive about it, because I have not taken the stock, but only speak from my knowledge of the man, and his appearance, and there is no sort of distress about him.

5325. Had he a larger stock at one time than he has now?—I cannot answer that question.

5326. Do you know a man named Alexander M'Connel?—I do.

5327. He has a large family, has he not?—He has.

5328. Has he stock at present?—I should think he has a cow, and I will tell you the reason; it is a heifer. That is the only man in the townland that has not paid me rent this year, and he told me the other day that he had a heifer, but he intended selling her to pay the rent.

5329. Do you know whether that man had three cows in 1846?—I do not know.

5330. Are his children badly clad?—He is very well clothed himself.

5331. I ask you whether his children, nine in family, are well clad, or the contrary?—I do not know. I know that he has got relief; he told me so; but I could not just state as to his clothes; but he is a very well dressed man, and looks very well.

5332. Do you know a man named Daniel M'Guiley?—Yes.

5333. Has he any stock at the present moment?—I am sure he has a cow. I think there are not more than four or five in that townland that have not cows. I have always heard so, but they are new tenants, and I cannot give returns of them.

5334. Do you know that that man had cows and horses two or three years ago?—I do not know the circumstances of the people at all further back than a year and a half ago.

5335. Now take Paddy Coyle; has that man any stock?—A cow, I think.

5336. Is it a cow or an old horse?—I do not know; but I know that he is better off this year than last year; last year he was the only man in the townland who could not pay his rent; he is a sickly delicate man, and this year he has paid his rent. He came to me and said, that if his circumstances did not improve the next year he would sell his land and set up dealing.

5337. Do you say that that man has a cow at the present moment?—I think he has a cow, or he had one the latter end of last year.

5338. Did she die?—I do not know.

5339. Did you hear that that man had four cows before?—I did not. I am sure that he had not; he has always been wretched, and sickly, and poor.

5340. Did you never hear of a sickly man having cows?—I do not think that he could work his farm, to do it justice; and I hope he will soon give it up himself.

5341. Did his last cow die, and did he salt her, and put her in a barrel?—I am told that he had time to bleed her first, and then he cut her up and salted her, and put her in a barrel.

5342. Do you know anything about that man's son, Paddy Coyle, junior?—That is the man that I am telling you about. Paddy Coyle, junior, is the man whose father has a house at Cross Roads, I think. This must be a very old man.

5343. I am talking of Paddy Coyle, junior; has that man's stock increased?—I do not know?—that man has certainly paid his rent this year, and he did not last year, and he is a very sickly man.

5344. Has Paddy Coyle senior's stock increased?—I do not know about that; this is a new purchase, and I have not the same information about it as I have about the others.

5345. You mentioned a man, I think, named M'Cue, in Killult, as having got relief, and that man, you say, is a rich man?—I say that he is a contractor for nine miles of road, and he must have a horse and cart, and some men employed.

5346. Is not that man summoned as a witness here?—He is summoned.

5347. Is there not another man of the same name?—I do not know. I saw in Mr. M'Fadden's book, No. 115, James M'Cue, of Killult.

5348. Is that M'Cue, whom you speak of as a rich man, he who was summoned here?—He was the only one that was summoned from that townland.

5349. Is he here now?—He is.

5350. Is that the man who, you say, got relief?—I say that James M'Cue, of Killult, got relief.

5351. Is there not another; why do you confound the two men?—Because I produce this list of persons who got relief, and it struck me as very odd that this man should be receiving relief.

5352. Do you mean to assert that that comfortable man had got relief?—I do, for I have the book of Mr. M'Fadden, and his name is in the list.

5353. Did you see the man who is a witness here now within the last few days?—I did.

5354. Why did you not ask him such a question?—I would not ask him any question at all. I know that 20 men much better off than he is have got it.

5355. Tell me, are there two Mickey Doogans?—Not on that townland.

5356. You state that you know 20 men better off than he?—Yes, 40 who have got relief.

5357. Is there not a Mickey Doogan just on the Magheraroarty Mountain, near the other Doogan?—Yes.

5358. Which of the two men received relief?—Mickey Doogan, from Glachawo, who paid the tax; he told me so himself.

5359. Is it a fact that that Mickey Doogan got money to divide amongst the others?—Yes, he told me so, and that he was to proportion it according to their taxation, and he got 10*s.* himself as his share.

5360. There was a second meeting of the Dunfanaghy guardians in connexion with this subject, was there not?—Yes, there was.

5361. What was the origin of that meeting; what was it called for?—To elect a doctor.

5362. Was not that matter of Gweedore introduced at the same time?—It was.

5363. Was there a summons sent to all the guardians to attend?—They were all present.

5364. Was there a summons sent to them to attend?—No. Mr. Hamilton, the Poor-law Commissioner, attended there; and seeing such a numerous Board, which was unusual, he put some questions with respect to the relief; it was unusual to have such a large attendance, and I have a copy of the questions which he put. Every guardian of the district was present except Lord George Hill and his agriculturist, Mr. Robinson, of Cross Roads.

W. Olphert, Esq.

21 June 1858.

5365. Lord *Naas*.] When was that?—On the 11th day of May 1858.

5366. Will you read that paper (*handing a paper to the Witness*)?—"Dunfanaghy Union. At a meeting of the Board of Guardians, held on Tuesday the 11th day of May 1858. Present: in the chair, Wybrants Olphert, esq.; other guardians, William Ramsay, A. Maddison, and Thomas Olphert, esqrs., and Messrs. Thomas Ingram, D. M'Kelvey, William Henderson, E. Coll, S. A. M'Lean, C. M'Laughlin, J. Wilkinson, A. Sweeney, G. Brewster, W. Robertson, R. Benson, J. M'Clintock, and E. M'Elroy; and R. Hamilton, esq., poor-law inspector. Mr. Hamilton, poor-law inspector, called the attention of the guardians to their resolution of the 16th of February last, and asked if any unusual distress existed at the present time in the union; and, at his suggestion, the chairman put the following questions to each guardian present: 1st. 'Have you observed any indication of unusual distress in your neighbourhood during the past winter?' The guardians unanimously and severally stated that they had not. 2d. 'Are you acquainted with any families living on unwholesome food, and who are in really destitute circumstances?' Mr. E. M'Elroy stated that a woman named Bell M'Bride, aged 82 years, died in Cross-roads division, of destitution, about a month ago; but explained that she was a mendicant for a number of years, and would not go to the workhouse. All the guardians stated that they were not acquainted with a family in such circumstances. 3d. 'Was the potato crop of last year above or below the average of former years?' Fourteen of the guardians stated that the crop was much better than former years, and three guardians said it was an average one.' 4th. 'Have the people cropped their farms this spring as well as usual?' The guardians were unanimous that the farms are as well cropped as ever they witnessed, and a majority of the guardians stated the lands were now better cropped than for many years past. 5th. 'Is employment abundant in your neighbourhood, and is there any advance in the rate of wages?' The guardians were unanimous that such was the case. A few said they could not find a sufficient number of labourers; others that they are paying a large increase on the former rate of wages. Mr. M'Lean said he had to pay this season 2*s*. a day with diet, and Mr. M'Laughlin said the rate of wages he paid was same as last year. (signed) *P. Coll*, Clerk of Union."

5367. How many of those gentlemen were magistrates?—None but myself.

5368. William Ramsay, what is he?—The deputy vice-chairman; he is a merchant in Dunfanaghy.

5369. A. Maddison, what is he?—He has a little property in the union of Dunfanaghy.

5370. Mr. Thomas Ingram, what is he?—A tenant farmer; a very respectable tenant of Mr. Stewart, of Ards.

5371. Does he live in this district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely?—He does not.

5372. D. M'Kelvey, what is he?—He is an agent under Mr. Stewart, of Ards.

5373. William Henderson, what is he?—A tenant farmer.

5374. E. Coll, what is he?—A tenant farmer.

5375. S. A. M'Lean, what is he?—A tenant farmer and hotel keeper; his landlord is Mr. Stewart, of Ards.

5376. C. M'Laughlin, what is he?—A tenant farmer.

5377. J. Wilkinson, what is he?—A tenant farmer.

5378. A. Sweeney, what is he?—A tenant farmer.

5379. G. Brewster, what is he?—Tenant farmer.

5380. W. Robertson, what is he?—He is Lord George Hill's agriculturist.

5381. R. Benson, what is he?—A tenant farmer.

5382. J. M'Clintoch, what is he?—A tenant farmer.

5383. E. M'Elroy, what is he?—A tenant farmer.

5384. *Chairman*.] How many of those men that you have given as tenant farmers live in this district?—Seven of them live in Cloughaneely district.

5385. Which of them?—The first is Mr. Thomas Olphert; he lives near the centre of Cloughaneely.

5386. Whose tenant is he?—He is a proprietor himself; he has a townland of his own. Anthony Sweeney is a tenant farmer, and a tenant of mine.

5387. Is he in this district?—He is in Cloughaneely district. George Brewster is a tenant of mine in this district. Richard Benson is a tenant farmer; he has

has a perpetuity lease of his own in the same district. J. M'Clintock is a tenant farmer: he has a perpetuity lease of his own in the same Cloughaneely district. Edward M'Elroy is a tenant farmer of mine in this Cloughaneely district. William Robinson is from the Gweedore district.

5388. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was William Robertson there the land steward of Lord George Hill?—He was. It is a mistake in the name; it was Mr. Robinson, of Crossroads that was not there.

5389. Was Mr. Edward Coll there?—Yes, he was there.

5390. Did Mr. Edward Coll say, that if Gweedore and Cloughaneely were alluded to, he personally knew that there was distress in those places?—I do not remember. He gave us the case of a poor woman in Creeslagh that was in the district, and the other guardian for Creeslagh further stated that she was better off this year than she was the year before, so he withdrew her name, and would not have her case entered.

5391. Did Mr. Edward Coll say that that unanimous resolution would not apply to the district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, because of the distress that existed there?—I did not hear him say that. I heard Mr. Hamilton say that he wished the guardians to give an opinion of their own districts.

5392. You heard Mr. M'Lean say that he was paying 2 *s.* a day as wages, with food?—I did.

5393. What do you give at this time?—I am giving to my regular labourers 10 *d.* a day, without diet.

5394. What do you give in the winter?—Eightpence a day.

5395. Did you ever hear of a man giving 2 *s.* a day, with diet, in that district?—I believe many are giving it.

5396. At what work?—At turf-cutting; I only hear that from report in the country; I do not employ them myself at turf-cutting; I contract for my turf-cutting.

5397. Did not it go abroad at that time, because it was not explained, that 2 *s.* a day was something like the average wages?—No; only for turf cutting.

5398. Did Mr. M'Lean say that it was for turf cutting?—I think he said it was for turf cutting.

5399. One of the questions to the guardians is, "Is employment abundant in your neighbourhood, and is there any advance in the rate of wages." What would you mean there by the rate of wages, and if a person asked you whether there was any advance in the rate of wages, what would you understand that person as asking?—I would say that there is a great rise in the rate of wages; I would mean that there was a higher rate of wages paid this year than formerly.

5400. Would you consider 10 *d.* or 8 *d.* a day a very great rise in the rate of wages?—No; but my labourers are different from others, because they are employed all the year round; and they all have houses and land attached to them.

5401. Do not they pay for those houses and land?—They do pay a small rent, but the labour has greatly increased, and I have heard the farmers complain bitterly that they have had to pay 5 *l.* for a servant boy from May to November that they used to get for 3 *l.*

5402. Is not turf cutting rather a skilled labour?—I think every one could do it.

5403. Would you employ any one to cut turf?—I only contract with one man.

5404. What was the impression on the mind of the stranger (Mr. Hamilton) when Mr. M'Lean said that he had to pay this season 2 *s.* a day with diet?—That he had to pay increased wages, as labourers were scarce.

5405. Does the turf cutting last longer than a week or a fortnight in the year?—No. I will give an instance of the increased rate of wages. I saw a farmer offer a man the other day 8 *d.* a day and his food, which he refused, and he went to the relief committee and got a hundred-weight of meal; he is a strong, active young man, his name is Daniel M'Ginley, of Crossroads; No. 534, in the Rev. Mr. M'Faden's book.

5406. Were there not from 12 to 18 persons sent to your house at the time of the relief to ask you for work?—There were. They were desired to wait in the court till I returned home, and when I did not return they went back to the priests and got half a hundred-weight of meal, all of them; those that refused to come over got no relief, because they did not come; they told me that.

W. Olphert, Esq.

21 June 1858.

5407. Who told you that?—One was Fanny Boyle, a poor woman; she was on the relief list; but she did not get it that day, only those got it who came over to me for work.

5408. Was not it given out by the gentlemen in the district, you amongst the rest, that there was work to be found amongst the people?—If I had been at home I would have given them work, but they would not have stayed with me half an hour.

5409. Was it not given out by you amongst others that there was plenty of employment?—I know that the farmers are complaining bitterly that they cannot get labourers.

5410. Was not that given out by you, and were there not 18 sent to you by the priests?—I know that they were sent, but they would not stay with me.

5411. Would not the impression on the mind of the public from that paragraph, be that there was this magnificent rate of wages of 2 *s.* a day given to the people?—Only for turf cutting.

5412. Who does give a larger rate of wages?—The tenant farmers will hire boys for four or five months, and they will give larger wages than I do, as I employ them all the year round.

5413. Lord *Naas.*] Have some of those men who have received relief hired boys?—Every name that I have mentioned this day from these returns, has a hired boy, hired for the season, if his own children are not sufficient to do the work.

5414. What is the rate of wages?—I understand that the rate of wages is 5 *l.*, with diet, this year to November; it was formerly 3 *l.*, with diet.

5415. Mr. *Maguire.*] You assert that a number of people, who employ labourers got relief; will you give me the name of one of them?—I have given them you at the commencement.

5416. How many persons so circumstanced, who are in a position to hire labour, got relief on the list?—I do not see how I can make them out; but I will take this townland of Glasherhon, and every man that I mentioned to you I am certain keeps a servant boy.

5417. Does Mickey Doohan keep a boy?—Yes.

5418. Has not that man three sons of his own?—He has; but two of them, I think are married, and settled for themselves.

5419. Do you state that this man employs labour, independently of his two sons?—I am sure he does, and more than one; he could not manage his kelp business if he had not more.

5420. Does Daniel M'Award, of Glasherhon, keep a boy?—I have not a man of that name.

5421. Does John M'Gee keep a boy?—I do not think he does.

5422. Does Mickey Herritty keep a boy?—I think he does; I have often known him to have servant girls.

5423. Has not he three sons?—Yes; but they are not now with their father.

5424. You have said that higher wages were given, and you have seen, you said, 5 *l.* given for the half year; what would that be per day; just make the calculation; would it be 6 *d.* a day?—More than 6 *d.* a day; besides that, they are fed in the house. Formerly they used only to get 4 *d.* a day; that would be 3 *l.*

5425. Those boys are hired for the purpose of making kelp, when they are hired, are they not?—They are hired for making kelp along the shore.

5426. Will you have the kindness to look at that valuation; you will find that there are two M'Cues there (*handing a paper to the Witness*)?—Yes; but their names are repeated there in three or four places, wherever they have land it is put down; there is "James M'Cue, house and land."

5427. Has he any land?—He is valued at 1 *l.* 10 *s.* There is James M'Cue John, John M'Cue Shane, and there are three or four of them.

5428. Has James M'Cue John any land?—He is valued at 6 *l.* James M'Cue Shane senior is valued at 2 *l.*

5429. I think one man is valued at 1 *l.* 10 *s.* and the other at 6 *l.*?—Yes.

Martis, 22° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bagwell.
Sir John Yarde Buller.
Mr. Serjeant Deasy.
Mr. Dobbs.
Sir Edmund Hayes.
Mr. Maguire.
Mr. P. Wykeham Martin.
Lord Naas.
Sir William Somerville.

JOHN BAGWELL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Wybrants Olphert, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

W. Olphert, Esq.
22 June 1858.

5430. Mr. *Maguire.*] WAS it in Lower or Middle Keeldrum that you saw a man named James M'Fadden?—Lower Keeldrum.

5431. Are you certain that it was not James M'Fadden, of Middle Keeldrum?—I know it was Lower Keeldrum; it is the first house in the townland.

5432. There are three James M'Faddens in the Keeldrums, are there not?—I know there is one in Middle Keeldrum and one in Lower Keeldrum, but I am not sure about Upper Keeldrum; I can tell by referring to my book.

5433. Is there not one in Middle Keeldrum and two in Lower Keeldrum?—There is James M'Fadden, in Middle Keeldrum, the rich man, who has got relief in the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden's book.

5434. Are you positive that it was the rich man who got relief, and not the poor man?—They both got it.

5435. Are there not three?—I think not. I can show their names; I can show the rich man and the poor man.

5436. Can you prove to the Committee that the rich man got relief?—James M'Fadden, of Upper Keeldrum, got 19 *s.* 10 *d.* in money and meal; I think, principally in money. In the list returned to me it is in goods that he got relief. He has one horse, 10 cows and 10 sheep, and he got it first, as he paid the tax.

5437. Are there not two James M'Faddens in the Keeldrums, men of a lower condition?—There is one James M'Fadden, the one that I allude to as having inspected his house on the 12th of May, who is a poor man, and he is in Lower Keeldrum.

5438. Are not both of the M'Faddens in Lower Keeldrum poor men?—I know that James M'Fadden whose house I went into is a poor man, but I do not exactly know who the other man is, there may be two in Lower Keeldrum.

5439. You state that they are both poor?—The one that I visited is poor.

5440. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] You are sure that the rich man got relief?—I am positive of it. I have his name returned here.

5441. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did the three M'Fadden's get relief?—The poor man got relief since the 1st of May. I have only taken it from Mr. M'Fadden's book.

5442. Did the two poor M'Faddens get relief as well as the rich man?—The poor man certainly did get it. I can say that the two did get it, but I am not sure about the third, till I look over that book.

5443. How do you know that the rich man got it?—He told me so himself, and I also have a return that Mr. M'Fadden the shopkeeper gave me of the relief he got.

5444. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You state that he told you so himself?—He told me

me so himself. I know that he got the relief because he paid the tax, he got it in consequence of that.

5445. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did all who paid the taxes in Keeldrum get relief?—Every one except Owen Ferry and Charles Gallagher.

5446. Did James M'Fadden get it?—He did; he told me so himself, and I have a return from the shopkeeper that he gave it.

5447. Do you find him in the list?—He got nothing that I know of since the 1st of May; it was at the time they were getting the amount of the tax, he got it.

5448. Did Daniel Gallagher of Upper Keeldrum get it?—He paid 2 *l.* 14 *s.* 8 *d.* tax; he has 2 horses; he has 30 cows, and he has 60 sheep, and he was offered the sheep-tax in April, but refused.

5449. Is not that man the cess collector?—Yes; he is the poor-rate collector.

5450. Who offered him the meal?—Mr. M'Fadden, the shopkeeper, and he told him that he might take a bag of meal on account of his tax, with the rest, he came and asked me if he should take it, and I said I would not recommend him to be put on the list, but if he were paid in money, he should take it.

5451. Was that relief offered by one of the clergymen?—I cannot say; it was Mr. M'Fadden, the shopkeeper, who was giving out the meal.

5452. Was not it natural that that Mr. M'Fadden should get rid of as much of his goods as possible?—Undoubtedly, and he gave a great deal of goods in the place of meal, for which he had orders.

5453. Do you mean to represent that he was offered it by that shopkeeper, as an offer on the part of the relief committee?—I do.

5454. Did any of the relief committee offer it?—I cannot tell; it was some of the agents of the party.

5455. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Was this shopkeeper paid out of the fund?—Yes.

5456. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was your information derived from the same source as in the case of Daniel Gallagher, in the case of Owen Ferry?—It was.

5457. Why did not they get the meal?—Because they were the men, as Mr. M'Fadden stated here, who were obliged to sell six heifers each on account of having no mountain grazing; they were considered too rich, and they were not to get anything.

5458. Were they offered it by the clergyman?—I cannot say.

5459. Were they offered it by Mr. M'Fadden, the shopkeeper?—I cannot say; I was astonished at the man's asking me the question he did.

5460. Do you say that any member of the relief committee any authorised person offered that man relief?—Yes; I can say that an agent of the committee did.

5461. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] It was a man who was giving other people relief, was it not?—Exactly.

5462. Mr. *Maguire.*] How many of the committee were living in that district?—I believe only two; at that time there was only one.

5463. Was not the Rev. James M'Fadden, the curate, living there?—He was not; he was absent four months, but the Rev. Hugh M'Fadden was there.

5464. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Is he an old man?—He is not very old.

5465. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is he not a sickly man?—I do not know; I have heard of him latterly going once or twice to Derry to consult a doctor about his health.

5466. Is he upwards of 60 years of age?—I should think he was.

5467. Do you know a man named Mickey M'Geady of the same townland?—Yes.

5468. Do you know Neal Doogan, Tom M'Gee, and Charles Roony Gallagher?—I do not know a man of the last name.

5469. Do you know whether relief, that is, further relief, was refused to those people when their circumstances were made known to the committee?—I think I shall find them again in Mr. M'Fadden's book; here is Mickey M'Geady, No. 686, and he received half a cwt. of meal from Mr. M'Fadden.

5470. When was that?—Since the 1st of May.

5471. Whose handwriting is that in?—I cannot say; it is like John Boyle's handwriting, the man that distributed the meal, but the remarks are in the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden's handwriting.

5472. Is

5472. Is not he one of the last on the list?—He is not one of the last on the list.

5473. Is he not nearly one of the last on the list?—There are 16 after him.

5474. Out of how many?—Out of 692.

5475. Was that relief given since the clergymen came over to this Committee?—I do not believe it was.

5476. Are you certain of it?—I do not believe that you have any return of the meal that was given since the clergymen came over; I think you have not, and I will give my reason.

5477. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] That man is in the book of those to whom relief was given?—He is; I left home the week after the clergymen left, and during that time John Boyle was distributing to the different people there; and he told me, on several occasions, that the people, when he was obliged, in consequence of the meal running short, to reduce the tickets to three pecks in place of half a cwt., threw them back in his face, and would not take them; he told me that himself, and then he told me that he was employed to give out this meal in the absence of the clergymen.

5478. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was he appointed in the absence of the clergymen?—He was giving it out before they left.

5479. How long before?—I think a week or 10 days.

5480. Are you positive of that?—He may have been longer.

5481. Was he doing it all before the clergymen left?—He was doing it before the clergymen left.

5482. Was that before the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden left the district?—I believe it was; I am sure it was.

5483. Cannot you give me some proof?—I have not the dates, but I know that the Wednesday before they went I was at the Crossroads, at the dispensary there, and during that time he was giving it out, for I was at his door, and saw the people in his house.

5484. What day was it?—The Wednesday, I think, before they left home.

5485. What day in May was it?—I think it was about a fortnight ago.

5486. Do you know that the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden left that district on the 3d of May?—No, I think he left it on a Tuesday, for I was at Dunfanaghy, and saw him and Mr. Doherty going on the mail car.

5487. What day of the month was it?—I cannot give you the dates, but I can give you the time.

5488. Did this gentleman leave on the 3d of May?—He left on a Tuesday, whichever day it was, but I do not know the date.

5489. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Was it on the Wednesday after that that you saw him giving relief?—Yes, the Wednesday after or the Wednesday before.

5490. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was it the Tuesday after?—I am sure he was giving it before he, Mr. M'Fadden, went away.

5491. You said that you really did not know whether it was the Wednesday after or the Wednesday before?—I really could not say exactly; I have no dates.

5492. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] You say that you saw this man distributing relief on a Wednesday; can you tell me, distinctly, whether that particular Wednesday was the Wednesday before the clergymen left, or the Wednesday after?—I cannot exactly say.

5493. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] The 3d of May was on a Tuesday?—They left home on a Tuesday after that, that is the day they left home, whichever day the Committee was appointed here, and that was the 11th, I think.

5494. Mr. *Maguire.*] How do you know that they did not go on Tuesday the 2d of June?—I saw them on a Tuesday, when I was going to the petty sessions.

5495. Did you see those clergymen in your district on Tuesday the 8th of June?—I saw them in Dunfanaghy on their way, whichever Tuesday it was that they left home, but I say I do not know the dates.

5496. Did the people of Lower Keeldrum get relief?—They did.

5497. Did they pay the taxes?—No.

5498. Will you come to Upper Keeldrum; do you know a person named Conaghan?—She is a tenant of mine, and she is the poorest woman in the townland.

5499. Did you examine her house lately?—I did not go into her house; but she has a bed, such as it is.

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5500. How do you know that; would you call a dog's lair a bed?—No, I would not.

5501. Would you call a heap of straw, without a covering, a bed?—No.

5502. Is that the bed which she has, or is it not?—I am sure she has one; I do not believe that any woman in the country has not, and she is the poorest woman in the townland; she is a woman that should get relief if there was any given.

5503. Did that woman pay taxes?—Yes, she paid 2*s.* 2*d.*, and she got 10*s.* 6*d.* worth of meal.

5504. Do you know Michael Whoorisky?—I do.

5505. Is he your tenant?—He is.

5506. Is he the occupant of one of those new cuts?—I think, but I am not sure, that he is a man that occupies a new cut; it might be the name of the man that died.

5507. He is a man that has five in family?—There are so many brothers in that townland, that I cannot tell which you mean; there is a James Whoorisky and a Manus Whoorisky; they are brothers.

5508. This is a gentleman who has occupied a new cut for three years?—Yes.

5509. What does he pay for it?—Nothing.

5510. Did he pay entrance money?—He did not. I must explain, that he had another new cut in the townland, on the road side, going to Gweedore. He was a very poor man, and was never able to pay the rent of it. I requested him to sell it, and I said that if he sold it, he might, with the money he would get, be able to buy a cow; and I would give him another little place on the mountain. He sold it to Daniel Gallagher, of Kildrum, and got 23*l.* for it; and then adjourned to the other cut; and in consequence of that, he paid me two years' rent, 2*l.*; though he was due 10 or 12 years' rent; so that he had money, and had a new cut besides.

5511. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] When was that?—Three or four years ago; and Daniel Gallagar has the farm now.

5512. What is the rent of the place that he sold?—The rent was 1*l.*

5513. He got 23*l.*, you say?—Yes; I only got 2*l.*

5514. Mr. *Maguire.*] How long has this man been in the occupancy of this new cut?—I think four or five years.

5515. Is it some years?—Yes.

5516. What is the condition of this man?—I should think that he is a poor man.

5517. Has he any stock?—He might have a cow; I think he has.

5518. Has he a horse, or has he not?—I do not know much about a horse; he is rather out of reach of me, and I do not see him very often. He is in a backward place.

5519. Has he a bed or a shakedown?—I suppose he has just the same as any of the rest of the poor people.

5520. What is that?—He has, I dare say, a straw bed, with some bed-clothes on it; it is not a good bed at all events.

5521. Did he pay taxes?—He did not pay taxes; he is on a new cut that was not in the list for taxation.

5522. Why did he not pay taxes?—Because there is no valuation put upon his farm.

5523. Is his cut marked out, so that it could be distinguished from others?—Yes, it is ditched; but in the old way of striking those rates, there was no rate put upon the new cuts; they will be in the present valuation, but they were not in the last.

5524. How many in family has James Ferry, and what is his condition?—I cannot tell the families.

5525. I thought you knew all those people better than the priests?—So I do. I am not a stranger there.

5526. I think he is another occupant of the new cut?—Yes.

5527. Is he prosperous?—I do not think he has any family.

5528. Has he not six in family?—I do not think he has any children; he has two cows and two sheep.

5529. Will you answer my question. Has that man a four-legged beast in his possession?—I think he has.

5530. Do you know that he has?—I am sure that he has two cows. I will tell

tell you what I saw. I met him riding home with a sack of meal on his horse from Dunfanaghy not ten days ago. *W. Olphert*, Esq. 22 June 1858.

5531. Was that horse his own?—I do not think it was. I have not a return of it.

5532. Are there not very kind people there who might have lent it to him?—There are.

5533. Did not you wish to impress upon the Committee that it was his own horse?—No. I wish to impress upon the minds of the Committee, that he had the meal coming home with him, and that he could not have been starving. I think he might have bought it at Dunfanaghy.

5534. Was not there a depôt in Dunfanaghy for distributing meal?—I do not know how it was distributed; I believe it was distributed by tickets on Mr. Moffatt.

5535. Did this Mr. Moffatt, of Dunfanaghy, distribute the meal?—He did.

5536. Might not that man who rode a neighbour's horse have got his relief meal from Mr. Moffatt?—He might.

5537. Has that man a four-legged beast in his possession?—I have a list showing that he has two cows.

5538. Were you in that man's house?—I was not; I went to a neighbour's house, who knew perfectly well all the statements respecting him; it was not necessary for me to go to the houses. I might not be just accurate about a cow or a sheep, but I know very well their means.

5539. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You might know a man's stock without going into his house?—Yes; I see their stock in their fields.

5540. Mr. *Maguire.*] Come now to the case of Philip M'Fadden?—That is not in this townland; it must be in Lower Keeldrum; he has a large family.

5541. Is that man very prosperous?—No; I think that he is a poor man.

5542. Has he any stock?—I am not quite sure. As that townland did not pay tax, I did not take particular account of them, but I did of a good many of them.

5543. Were you in this man's house lately?—No.

5544. Were you ever in his house?—Often.

5545. Were you in it for the last six months?—No.

5546. What kind of bed has he for his family; he has eight in family?—He has a large family, and I think the bed is just the usual run of all that class of people.

5547. Was it a shake-down or a bed?—I really cannot explain that when I have not seen those things.

5548. Is it a bundle of straw thrown down in a corner, with some kind of covering flung over it, or is it a bed confined in a tick?—I think that very few have beds confined in a tick, but they have bedsteads, and they have straw and coverings over it. I do not think that they could sleep in a feather bed; they are not accustomed to it.

5549. Come to the case of Bartley Mooney, a tenant of yours in Lower Keeldrum, do you know him?—Yes, I do; he is a brother-in-law of that Philip M'Fadden.

5550. Did you visit that man's house?—I did not.

5551. How many has he in family?—I do not know; I have heard that that man is better off than Philip M'Fadden; I took no account of the families.

5552. Has that man any stock?—I am sure he has; I am sure he has a horse.

5553. Has he more than one cow?—I should think he had.

5554. Has he 50?—No.

5555. How many has he?—He might have a horse and two cows.

5556. Might he not have a horse, and might not he have only one cow?—I know that he has a horse, because I see him riding to fairs.

5557. Is that a proof that it is his own horse?—I heard so.

5558. If I assert that he has only one cow, am I right or wrong?—I would not dispute that point.

5559. If I describe his bed as a rotten straw bed, with a most forbidding rug to cover it, am I describing it correctly?—I think you would be describing it wrongly; I think it is as good as the generality of beds in that class of people's houses.

5560. Though you did not see that man's house, are you in a position to tell the Committee anything about his house?—It is a good stone house.

5561. Do you know Owen Doogan, in the same townland of Lower Keeldrum?—I have no Owen Doogan in Lower Keeldrum, I think.

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5562. Have you in Ballinacraig?—I have in Middle Keeldrum.

5563. Has that man any stock?—I am sure he has.

5564. What is it?—I cannot say; but he is not a man that I would say could be so badly off; but I have several of the name of Owen Doogan; it is a common name.

5565. Have you an Owen Doogan in Lower Keeldrum, and has not he no stock, only a donkey?—Yes; I find he is in Lower Keeldrum. I was in that man's house.

5566. How many in family has he?—I do not know. I was in his house since the beds and things were removed; since the houses were prepared for inspection. I was there on the 12th of May.

5567. When were you there before?—I had not been there before for some months; I should say 12 months.

5568. How do you know that there was any difference in his house between the last time you examined it and the time before?—I did not say that there was any difference; I visited it at the time that all those houses were prepared for inspection. He is a poor man.

5569. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] As to this preparation for inspection, when did it take place?—When I found the things removed was on the 12th of May, but the gentlemen, the reporters and the priests, had commenced their inspection, on the 1st of May; during that month there was no getting any information from anybody; it was utterly impossible; all the stock was removed, and everything else.

5570. How did you get your information then?—I took my information before the Committee was appointed, when the people had received the amount of their tax, and when relief was confined to the persons who paid the tax.

5571. I think you took your information of the taxed district, and not of the other districts?—Principally the taxed district.

5572. It does not refer to Lower Keeldrum?—No. I know Owen Doogan; he is working pretty constantly with Mr. Johnston, of Cashel, as a labourer.

5573. Do you know whether his house was or was not prepared for your inspection?—I do not know exactly whether it was prepared. I took him by surprise, I think, and it was after inspecting his house that I found the blankets and things were removed.

5574. Did you see his bed?—I saw his bed, and it was the usual bed that they have in those houses. There was a bed and bed-clothes in a corner of the house, where he always had it.

5575. Sir *Edmund Hayes*.] Did it present the same appearance as usual?—Just the same sort of bed as they always have, but he is a labouring man, and he is poor.

5576. Do you know a man named Dennis Gallagher, on that townland of Lower Keeldrum; and will you tell me something about his stock, if you know him?—I have no man of that name down; but if he is a son-in-law of Manus M'Fadden, he is a Gallagher, but I do not know his Christian name. Manus M'Fadden died this year, and he is his son-in-law.

5577. With regard to Upper Keeldrum, would you say that the people of that district have a larger number of horses this year than they had in 1846; you said that their stock was doubled, and trebled, and quadrupled?—I said that there was a larger stock than they had for some years; I said that they had increased very much.

5578. Has the number of horses increased very much in this townland of Upper Keeldrum?—I should think it was about the same; the cows certainly have increased, and I think the horses are the same.

5579. How do you know that they are the same?—I know that by the circumstances of the people.

5580. If I told you that there were only 16 horses now, and that they had 33 before, you would not believe it?—I would not believe it.

5581. What proof have you?—I know that there are 17 horses in that townland.

5582. How many were there before?—I do not exactly know.

5583. You say that there are 17 horses; among how many farmers?—I think about 38.

5584. Would you say 50?—No, not in Upper Keeldrum.

5585. How many are there in Middle and Upper Keeldrum?—In what is called Middle and Upper Keeldrum there are 168 cows.

5586. Was

5586. Was that according to the return that you got from the policeman?—No, I made the return myself, and I said that I corroborated it, as to some persons that I was not quite sure of; and I asked the policeman who lives at the mine, if, when he was walking about, he could find me out the particulars of two or three poor people, as I had not time to find out myself whether it was according to what I heard.

5587. Did that policeman visit Hugh Ferry's house, and what stock did he represent Hugh Ferry as having?—He is represented to have four cows and one horse, and he got relief one cwt. of meal; I think that is the same Hugh Ferry that you allude to.

5588. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Who was the policeman?—Philip M'Donagh, the acting constable; he is living in the middle of them, and I thought that the surest way of seeing that my return was right.

5589. Mr. *Maguire.*] How did he know that the stock was that man's or not?—He was living beside him.

5590. Might it not have been some other person's stock?—I do not think that a man would keep the stock of other people.

5591. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] It is not usual for one man to keep another man's stock at this season of the year?—Not at this season of the year; in winter they do sometimes in order to make manure.

5592. Mr. *Maguire.*] With regard to Dennis Ferry in the same townland, has he any stock?—He has.

5593. Whose is it; has he any stock belonging to himself?—Daniel Ferry has three cows and twelve sheep. Dennis and Daniel are the same in that country; I have given him his proper name of Daniel; I have no Dennis Ferry; I think they must be the same.

5594. I think there must be some error of memory or misrepresentation of it to you. Do you mean that Dennis and Daniel are the same in any part of Ireland?—I have always considered them the same name.

5595. *Chairman.*] In this return there is a Daniel Ferry and a Dennis Ferry?—I have no Dennis Ferry.

5596. Mr. *Maguire.*] Do you know a person named Owen M'Cue?—I do know Owen M'Cue.

5597. Is he a very prosperous man?—He is son-in-law to widow Doogan; she is in my book as tenant, and he is her son-in-law; she has a cow, and he is well able to support her; he is a fine stout able fellow, and he can go and get work in Scotland, or wherever he likes.

5598. Has he a cow?—The widow has.

5599. Is it a calf or a cow?—It is a cow.

5600. Is it a fact that that family are compelled to sleep together at night in the rags that cover them in the day?—I do not believe it.

5601. When were you in that man's house?—I have not been there for five or six months.

5602. Could you say what their condition was in February or March?—I could say what their condition was, but I was not in the house.

5603. You did not see whether they did sleep upon rags or not?—I am sure that they did not; I think that was a prepared house; I know the house, and there are worse houses than that in the townland.

5604. Do you know Bartley Ferry?—I do; he is a son-in-law of that woman's too.

5605. What kind of house does he live in?—It is a bad house; he has two cows and two sheep.

5606. Do you know that he has a four-footed beast in his possession?—He has.

5607. How do you know?—I have him down here; I made inquiries particularly about him, and I have also the policeman's return here that he gave me at the same place, and he says that he has a cow and a heifer, and got relief of a cwt. of meal.

5608. Will you describe his house?—I think his house was a bad one.

5609. What kind of a bed has he?—The usual bed. I have been at that man for two years, trying to get him to build a stone house, because I thought he was able to do it; but I could not get him to change his house.

5610. What kind of bed has he?—The beds are the usual beds; I never turned them up to look at them.

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5611. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Did you say that he had a better house built? —I wanted him to build it the last two years, but I could not get him to do so.

5612. What do you mean by a new house?—A good comfortable house; when they do build, I give them slates and windows, and I assist them as far as I can to build it.

5613. What means has that man of building a good house?—He has stones very convenient to him; he has lime convenient to him; he has his own work; and the rest would not cost him very much; if he sold one of his cows, and built a better house, it would be an advantage to himself.

5614. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Have other people equally poor built houses as well as he?—Yes, poorer people.

5615. Mr. *Maguire.*] You state that you would have given him slates; to how many persons on that townland have you given slates?—I have only six slate houses in that townland.

5616. Was not Daniel Gallagher one of the persons to whom you gave slates? —Yes; there were eight families living on Daniel Gallagher's farm in the famine year; I sent them to America, and gave Daniel Gallagher the farm on which those families lived.

5617. Daniel Gallagher was one of those to whom you gave slates, was he not? —He got them.

5618. Is he a bailiff?—No, he is the poor-rate collector.

5619. Do you know Manus Doogan of the same townland?—Yes, I know him very well.

5620. How many has he in family?—I do not know how many he has; I have given the particulars of this man; he has three cows and 10 sheep.

5621. How do you know that he has three cows and 10 sheep?—I asked him myself.

5622. When?—I asked him not three weeks ago; he was what I thought a very poor man, and has a very dirty house. I was very particular about this man, because I thought he would be brought here on account of his dirty house, and I asked him how he would support himself until the new potatoes came in; he said that he had some meal in the house; I think he said that it was a cwt. of meal; and he said he had 1 *l.* in money in his pocket, and he expected, that with that and what work he might do, he would do very well.

5623. Was there any question of rent between you and him at the time?—Not at all; he had paid his rent long before; the reason why he came to me was this, that he had got into a drunken quarrel with another man in the townland, and he struck him a very severe blow on the head; it was that Daniel Ferry that you mentioned before; and on that account he came to me to try in what means they could settle the dispute between them.

5624. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Did he get relief?—He did; he paid the tax.

5625. Mr. *Maguire.*] What kind of house does he live in?—A stone house, but it was dirty inside.

5626. Did you see his children?—I did see some children.

5627. In what condition were they?—They were poorly dressed.

5628. Were they ragged or half naked?—They were ragged, but not naked; they were just as the usual run of such children.

5629. This man you represent as a comparatively comfortable man?—I do not consider him comfortable, but he is a great deal better off than he has been for the last four or five years.

5630. Has he a bed?—He has a bed.

5631. Did you examine it?—I did not turn up the clothes. I asked him myself about the bed, and he said that he had the usual bed that he had always slept on.

5632. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] He is returned as very destitute of clothes?—There is no account returned of the clothing, so that I cannot say.

5633. Mr. *Maguire.*] Would you say that the children would not be fitting objects for relief?—I do not know if they have got any clothing. I think that the Cloughaneely people got no clothing; there is no return of it at least. I have not heard of many of them getting it. I have only heard of one or two instances.

5634. If I say that that man has got one heifer, and that it belongs to his sister, am I stating that which is untrue?—I cannot say that you are stating what

what is untrue or not, but I think that he may have a heifer belonging to his sister.

5635. Has he no other live stock?—He has more than that, but I cannot say whether one heifer may be his sister's or not.

5636. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Without saying that what Mr. Maguire says is untrue, it would be an untrue statement?—I do not accuse Mr. Maguire of stating what is untrue, but the statement is incorrect.

5637. Is it a fact that, in Upper Keeldrum, Daniel Gallagher, the cess collector, occupies upwards of 30 acres of land, and also 3,053 acres of mountain?—It is not.

5638. Is not his name down in the valuation?—It is.

5639. How is that?—It is a mistake in the print; that is the valuation book that is to be revised; he has a mountain farm from me that I have given him, in addition to that part he purchased from Whoorisky, that was mentioned before; and I gave him an addition of, I suppose, 60 acres to it.

5640. Is not Gallagher a kind of partner with some Scotchmen, who graze the mountain?—He has nothing to do with the Scotchmen whatever.

5641. Is he not put in the book of valuation as a partner?—I think he is put by himself.

5642. *Chairman.*] In the valuation, it says, "Daniel Gallagher and partners; mountain, 3,053 acres 2 roods 30 perches," and the rateable value is 25 *l.*?—It is corrected now; it does not appear so in the one which is coming out.

5643. Mr. *Maguire.*] What will appear in the valuation which is coming out?—Two thousand acres will appear in my own name, and Daniel Gallagher's will appear in his own name, and the rest will appear in the name of the townland.

5644. How many acres of the entire 3,600 are in the hands of the people?—One thousand six hundred.

5645. There is an error; you say here 1,053 acres?—No; there is no error in the total amount; there is an error in putting Daniel Gallagher down as the owner of it.

5646. There are 3,053 acres of mountain taken from the people?—There are not; that has been a very false statement.

5647. Does not that appear by the valuation?—It does not.

5648. *Chairman.*] The total acreage of Upper Keeldrum is given as 3,634 acres?—Yes.

5649. Then there are 100 acres let at the valuation of 100 *l.*, out of the 3,634 acres, which were, before the last arrangement which you made with regard to the mountains, in the occupation of the people generally?—They used to graze their cattle there; but I managed it myself; I never allowed any person to take possession of it without my authority.

5650. How many of those 3,634 acres were, before you made the last arrangement, commonage, in fact, that the tenants availed themselves of?—They availed themselves of the privilege of sending their cattle on it.

5651. You had no stock of your own on it, had you?—Sometimes I sent a few in the summer.

5652. Mr. *Maguire.*] The people did enjoy what they considered a right of common?—They sent their cattle there.

5653. Did not they practically enjoy the use of it?—They enjoyed the use of the grass on it; but I allowed no one to go and live on it.

5654. Did you pay the tax for it, or was it the people who paid?—There was no tax paid for it.

5655. *Chairman.*] How much have your tenants now the right of grazing on?—The right of 1,600 acres, and they have the privilege of putting their cattle over 8,000 or 9,000 acres, which I have just adjoining.

5656. Is it common to all your tenants?—Yes; I have allowed them it at present.

5657. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] In short, are the Committee to understand, that when you took the 2,000 acres out of the 3,600 into your own hands, besides the 1,600 acres, they have the commonage of 8,000 or 9,000 acres?—They have the commonage of 9,000 acres just adjoining, alongside the place.

5658. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Those 2,000 acres you have stated were an extreme corner?—Yes; an extreme corner on the way to Gweedore. I calculated that those mountains should graze a cow during summer time for every three acres, and that they should have 3,000 cattle on them; but they have not 500

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cattle on the mountains now, and if I had taken 5,000 acres more from them, I would have left them plenty.

5659. Mr. *Maguire.*] Do you know James M'Ginley of Magheraroarty?—I do.

5660. Did you tell him that if he put his cattle on the mountain, you would fine him 5 *s.*?—No, I did not.

5661. Had you any conversation with him?—No.

5662. With regard to the new cuts of Keeldrum, if I mistake not, you said to the Committee, that those cuts are not let to people who hold any other holdings?—I gave two cuts in that townland to persons who had other holdings.

5663. Are there any persons holding cuts on that townland who have no other holdings?—There are.

5664. Are there six?—I think there are about five or six, who have been there about 10 or 12 years; Ferry who has been mentioned has been there a long time, and that Whoorisky has been there a long time; and there is a man of the name of Doogan also, who has been there a long time.

5665. Are there six people who occupy those cuts who have no other land whatever?—I think there are about five or six.

5666. I think you mentioned a man yesterday, named Billy M'Award, of Lower Keeldrum?—Yes.

5667. Do you know that, at any time, Billy M'Award had any dispute with the people?—As I was making a division of some waste land in that townland, I made three cuts of it; and I set one of those cuts to Billy M'Award, in addition to the farm that he held; Billy M'Award took one, but the townpeople then objected, and said, that they should have it in common amongst them, and immediately they brought Billy M'Award before Mr. M'Fadden, the priest, and they made a complaint about him; Mr. M'Fadden told him that he would not allow him to take the cut; and he was so frightened at being prevented from the rites of his church, that he would not keep it, and he gave it up.

5668. Was not that waste land held in commonage by the people before?—It was held as a grazing, like the mountain; they put their cattle all over it, and they paid no rent.

5669. Practically, they had the use of it?—They had the use of it.

5670. Was not it close to their houses?—It is about a quarter of a mile from them.

5671. Was not it taken from the people, and let to Billy M'Award altogether for 30*s.*?—One cut was let for 30*s.*

5672. Was not that a cut that had been enjoyed by a number of people before?—I say that I took the right of grazing away.

5673. Billy M'Award, you say, had a quarrel with the people about this?—Yes.

5674. And Billy M'Award was the gentleman who desired you, who were so credulous, not to believe all you heard?—Yes.

5675. Do you think that Billy M'Award is a most reliable witness in regard to people with whom he had quarrelled?—He has no quarrel with them; I think it is two or three years ago.

5676. People have retentive memories?—He had this quarrel about the farm; but he is a very respectable man.

5677. Do you know a man named William Sheridan, of Ballinacraig?—Yes; I was asked yesterday about him.

5678. How many new cuts have you made out of the townland of Glasherhoo?—I have made no new cuts in the townland of Glasherhoo for persons to live upon; I have made additions to their farms; I have always given the land upon each townland to the tenants belonging to that townland; and I have never brought a stranger from any other property to my property to get one of those cuts.

5679. Do you charge for the new cuts?—I do.

5680. Do you know a man named Dennis O'Brien, in Derryconner?—I do.

5681. He lives on a new cut, does he not?—Yes; he has been there, I think, since the famine year.

5682. How many has he in family?—I do not know.

5683. Has he ten?—I do not know.

5684. Has he any stock?—I think he has not; he is a poor man; he has not paid any rent for his cut, so that I know very little about him.

5685. Did

5685. Did he pay 30 *s.* this year?—No, he did not.

5686. Did he pay anything this year?—I do not think he paid anything; I tried to get him to pay his rent, but I do not think he paid; I will refer to my book. There are two O'Briens, brothers, living beside each other; I find Dennis O'Brien paid nothing; John O'Brien, his brother, did.

5687. Were you asking 2 *l.* rent this year from that same Dennis O'Brien?—No, 1 *l.*, and he paid nothing.

5688. Did you examine his house lately?—No, I did not; it is a bad house.

5689. Would you say that that man was lying upon (I will use the word) a litter of straw, or not?—He may have a bad bed, but it is just the same as the others.

5690. Has he any stock?—I think not.

5691. Do you know James M'Geever?—Yes, I do, and his is a bad house, a sod house.

5692. Has he a bed?—I am sure he has a bed; he has no stock.

5693. Are you positive that he has any bed?—I do not think he could sleep without a bed; he has been living on that cut about 18 years without rent until this year, when he came himself and paid me, and told me that he was much better off than at any other time; he was the man that another person who got clothes offered them to him for work.

5694. Do you mean that he has never paid rent for 18 years?—He has never paid rent till this year, and I might go back 18 or 19 years.

5695. Did he occupy any land before he went to live upon this new cut?—He always lived upon that new cut.

5696. Do you know a man named James Gallagher who lives on this townland of Derryconner?—I do.

5697. Has he any stock?—He has.

5698. Is it one cow?—He has a horse and two cows.

5699. Who gave you the return from which you are reading?—This return I have made out particularly from people in the place, for this is one of the show places.

5700. Did you go into James Gallagher's house lately?—I was in James Gallagher's house about three months ago; it is a bad house, a sod house; it is on a new cut.

5701. Has he what you call an out-office to his house?—I do not know.

5702. Is not he merely the possessor of a sod house?—He has a sod house; he lives just close to his father-in-law.

5703. Where does he put his stock?—I think he keeps his horse in the house.

5704. Did you see it in the house?—I did not.

5705. Did you see a bed or bed clothes?—He has a bed, but I did not examine it; I never examined any bed till the 12th of May.

5706. Did you three months ago see bed clothes in that man's house?—I did; I consider that he is better off than some others.

5707. Was not it his father's horse that he had?—No; I am positive it was not.

5708. How are you positive about it?—I doubt if his father has one; but I think that the man would not keep a horse for his father; they are not so kind to each other as all that.

5709. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You mean that his father would not keep a horse for him?—No, nor he for his father.

5710. Mr. *Maguire.*] You admit that a neighbour lent a horse to go to Dunfanaghy, but a father would not lend it to his son?—He might lend it occasionally, but the son would not keep it constantly.

5711. There was some misunderstanding yesterday as to the wages of servant boys; what would you say are the wages given to hired servant boys?—I think from May to November this year, from 4 *l.* 10 *s.* to 5 *l.* 10 *s.* is given to servant boys.

5712. Will you mention the case of any farmer who gives 5 *l.* to servant boys at that season?—I think every farmer in the country this year would give from 4 *l.* 10 *s.* to 5 *l.* 10 *s.*, and they have been complaining bitterly to me of the increased rate of wages.

5713. Assuming that they give 5 *l.* this season, do they give so much in winter?—They do not give so much; probably 3 *l.* 5 *s.* would be the rate.

5714. Would that be 3 *d.* a day?—Yes, it would be 3 *d.* a day and their food,

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and the reason of that advance in summer is, that they have the kelp making in April.

5715. Is not that what they are employed for?—Partly, I think. I think every man has a boy.

5716. What would the average of 3 *l.* 5 *s.* in winter, and 5 *l.* in summer make throughout the year?—It is 8 *l.* 5 *s.* a year, or nearly 6 *d.* a day.

5717. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] What age are those boys who earn that money?—From 15 to 16 and 17.

5718. Mr. *Maguire.*] Do you assert that 5 *l.* is the common rate of wages in summer amongst the humbler class of farmers?—I have heard of it this year very frequently. I have a number of my own boys that are working in the garden and other places, who told me themselves that they wanted to leave me this summer. I was giving them 6 *d.*, and they said that if they hired in other places, they would get 4 *l.* or 4 *l.* 10 *s.* to November, and they are small boys, and not so good as the others.

5719. Are there many disputes about land in your neighbourhood?—Sometimes there are; but not much latterly.

5720. You state that a great many people referred the settlement of disputes to yourself?—A great many.

5721. Do you know that a great many cases are referred to the clergyman?—A great deal too many.

5722. Did you ever refer any cases yourself to the clergyman that you could not settle?—Never.

5723. Do you mean that you never sent a note to the clergyman, referring a particular case to the clergyman?—Not that I know of; I am sure that I did not; I may have done this once or twice, having settled a dispute about land, and when the dispute was brought again by the same people to the priest, and he was punishing them for holding on the farm or place, whichever it was, I may have sent him a line to say that I had settled the matter, and informing him of the arrangement I had made, but nothing further than that.

5724. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You never referred the matter to him to settle?—Never; if they would interfere less with the settlement of the land, we should not have this disputing.

5725. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is there such a thing as a tribunal of arbitration in the parish, consisting of the clergyman and two respectable parishioners?—I think there are three parishioners appointed.

5726. And the clergyman presides, does he not?—That is the court that they hold.

5727. What objection have you to that court?—I have no objection particularly to it.

5728. Were they disputes between parishioners who happened to be tenants at the same time?—They might be; but I do not know why they should interfere between landlord and tenant with respect to arrangements about land; I think that those little quarrels about people getting drunk and fighting among themselves, and quarrels between man and wife, they might refer to the clergyman.

5729. Who appoint the arbitrators?—I believe it is the priest.

5730. Do you know whether the people appoint them or not?—I think it is the clergyman; they go by the name of the priest's arbitrators.

5731. Are not the arbitrators themselves appointed by the people?—I am sure that they are not; I am sure that they are appointed by the clergyman.

5732. Is not it optional with the people to select any arbitrator they please?—I know that three are appointed, and I think that they charge 1 *s.* a piece for sitting on those cases; they formerly did that; I do not know whether they do now or not, butthey formerly charged 1 *s.* for each case; it is like a petty session.

5733. Do they make a charge?—Formerly, three or four years ago, when the thing was first established, they did.

5734. When cases are referred to this tribunal do the members of this tribunal charge anything to the people for settling their disputes?—I do not know whether they do now or not, but I know they did when they were first appointed, because the people told me so; I think it is three or four years ago.

5735. I think you stated that the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden is an elderly clergyman?—Yes.

5736. And you admitted that he went a couple of times to Derry to consult the doctor?—I heard so.

5737. I think

5737. I think you also said that his curate, the Rev. James M'Fadden, was absent at the first distribution of the relief?—I think he was absent before the appeal was got up at all, though his name appears in the appeal.

5738. Was he absent at the time of the first distribution of relief?—He was.

5739. Am I not right in saying that the whole burden of administering that relief fell upon the aged parish priest?—There was the Rev. Mr. M'Gee, the priest of Gweedore, and there was a committee of those 10 gentlemen whose names appear to the appeal; they used to meet in the committee-room, and settle about it: I do not know how they managed it among themselves.

5740. Has not Mr. M'Gee a parish of his own to attend to?—He has, but they met in Dunfanaghy in their committee-rooms.

5741. Has the Rev. Mr. M'Gee ever a curate to relieve him of the duties of his parish?—I do not think he has.

5742. Then how could he attend to his own parish?—He had the Rev. Mr. Doherty all the time going round with the strange clergymen that were coming to see this district.

5743. Has the Rev. Mr. Doherty a parish of his own?—He has a curate, and he devotes his attention at present to Gweedore.

5744. How do you know that Mr. Doherty, or the other clergymen, assisted this aged clergyman in administering relief?—I will tell you how I know: this old Mr. M'Fadden used to give a list of those names of persons who were to get relief, to Mr. M'Fadden, the shopkeeper, in the town of Crossroads, and when the people went to him he gave them meal, so that the priest had no further trouble about it; at that time it was only those who paid the tax got it; there was not at that time so much to manage.

5745. When you talk of impositions on public charity, do you know that there were ever impositions on public charity before in that district?—Not that I am aware of in the year of the famine.

5746. Did you ever hear a complaint at that time, that persons got relief who ought not?—There may have been a few odd individuals who might have got it; there were a great number wanting relief at that time; it was a very different thing to manage where you have the whole country seeking relief, as was the case then, and where there are only a few families.

5747. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Did I understand you rightly yesterday to say, that you thought that the case of the sea-weed sprinkled with meal was got up for the occasion, and that it is not consumed as food?—I never heard of persons subsisting upon sea-weed before this appeal was got up.

5748. Mr. Sharman Crawford told the Committee that he saw some sprinkled with meal: do you think that that was got up?—I think that it was got up for him.

5749. Do the houses in the district consist of one room, or more?—Most of them consist of two rooms, but several have only one room.

5750. Would this be a fair description, in your opinion, of the district, as gathered from the evidence, that there is a chronic state of poverty throughout the district, but no destitution?—There are some cases of poverty, but no destitution; there is an appearance of poverty among a great many people, from their dirty houses.

5751. You think that they are not really poor?—I do; I consider that they are better off than in many other districts; I consider that they are better off than in the district of which Mr. Doherty is the parish priest.

5752. Mr. *Maguire.*] Would you say that there are any indications of opulence upon any one of the townlands which you have spoken of before the Committee?—I think there are great indications of opulence in the townland of Glasherhon and Magheraroarty, where they get so much sea-weed.

5753. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You were asked whether you took an active part when the presentment for the sheep was carried; did you vote at all or not?—At the road sessions, which were held in Letterkenny, I think the inquiry lasted fully 12 hours; the chairman first put the question to the cess-payers, if malice was proved, and they unanimously said that it was. He then put it to the 18 magistrates present. I then stated to the chairman, that as one of the persons seeking compensation was a tenant of mine, I refused to vote, and did not vote; and at the assizes, when it came before the grand jury, I told the foreman that I would not vote when the question was put; and in consequence of that, Mr. Forster, the agent to Lord George Hill, also refused to vote.

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5754. Mr. M'Fadden stated, in his evidence, that you had taken the mountain of Magheraroarty from your tenants, and had continued to charge them 6 *l.* after having taken it; do you wish to explain that?—In the year 1842 or 1843, my father gave the Magheraroarty people the mountain for grazing their cattle, besides their farms, and he charged them for that, I think, 2 *l.* 10 *s.* as the increased rental of their holding; something about 9½ *d.* per cow's grass. I was going, about two years ago, to cut up 500 or 600 acres that I had in the townland of Magheraroarty of cut out bog and other ground; and being convenient to the shore, I thought I would add something to the tenants' farms, and also make some new cuts. When the tenants found that I was going to do this, they came to me, and proposed this themselves. They begged that I should take the mountain that they formerly held, which my father gave them, and give them those 500 or 600 acres, as it was convenient to their holdings; and that they would, besides that, pay me 2 *s.* 6 *d.* a cow's grass. After some little time, I thought that it was better to give it to them, and I did agree to do so; and since I have made that agreement, that is two years ago, I have never prevented them, up to the present time, from putting their cattle upon the mountain, though I may do it by my agreement at any time I like; in the townland of Magheraroarty the rent has been increased, in consequence of that 2 *s.* 6 *d.* additional, from 74 *l.* to 81 *l.* 9 *s.* 7 *d.*; that is all the increase that has been put upon it. This is the townland where the sea-weed comes in so plenty.

5755. Are there many public-houses in the district of Cloughaneely?—I think in the district of Cloughaneely there are 13.

5756. Do you consider that the consumption of spirits has diminished or increased within the last three or four years?—I think that it has greatly increased. There are seven public-houses in the village of Crossroads, and one of the publicans there, a man of the name of John Williams, told me the other day that he had got from Derry 60 gallons of Parliament whisky, which lasted three months; he had got 10 gallons of rum; he had got a quantity of cordial, and he had got a quantity of brandy, a thing he had never got before. That I considered a very large consumption for one house, besides all the private whisky that was sold.

5757. Lord *Naas.*] What do you mean by private whisky?—Illicit whisky.

5758. Is there much illicit distillation in the district?—Not at this time of the year; it has certainly been lessened by the activity of the constabulary. Brandy, I would say, is a thing that I never heard of before in the district.

5759. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Does this consumption take place in the midst of this distress?—That is the consumption of one public-house, and I think that Williams does not sell more on an average than the others.

5760. Lord *Naas.*] Do you mean to say that illicit distillation has been considerably put down by the exertions of the constabulary in the district?—Yes; since the new arrangement.

5761. That is to say, the substitution of the constabulary for the revenue police?—Yes; I think that has done good.

5762. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do you think that, on the whole, in this district the condition of the people was worse last year than in former years?—I consider that it was a great deal better.

5763. Mr. *Maguire.*] Does not Williams live at Crossroads?—Yes.

5764. Is not that a fair town?—Yes.

5765. Do you know that that man sends whisky to Dublin and London?—I do not.

5766. Did you ever get 10 gallons of whisky from him yourself?—I may have bought whisky of him for myself, but never so much at one time. I may have got that quantity from him at different times, because any that I buy I buy in one of those houses.

5767. Sir *W. Somerville.*] You stated, did not you, that about this season of the year there might be some distress among a very few persons in this district?—Certainly, about the end of the month of July before the new potato crop comes in, and if there was any distress, it would likely be then.

5768. Has their distress been more severe during the present year than at the same period in former years?—No, I do not think so; it is only a few people just at that season, between the old crop and the new crop, that may be in distress.

5769. Supposing the distress to exist, was it more severe during the present season?—No, I have not seen it.

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5770. On several occasions when the question was put to you if such and such a person received relief, your answer was that he paid the tax; do you mean to convey to the Committee that every person in those townlands who paid the tax received a portion of the relief money?—Yes, they received the amount of the tax, half of it at first, and some a great deal more; that was up to the 1st of May.

5771. That is to say, without reference to their circumstances, they received a portion of this money on account of having paid the tax?—They did.

5772. Mr. *Maguire.*] Do you mean to say that every person received it who paid the tax?—Yes, every person who paid the tax received it, except two in Upper Keeldrum, and they are not on the list. I am not sure whether they had it or not.

John Obins Woodhouse, Esq., called in; and Examined.

J. O. Woodhouse, Esq.

5773. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] YOU were formerly a solicitor in Dublin?—Yes, I was.

5774. You purchased some property, did you not?—Yes, in several counties; in Donegal in particular.

5775. Will you give the Committee the names of the townlands you purchased in Donegal?—The principal property that I have in Donegal is about Kerrykeal; but I have townlands in the district which is the subject of this inquiry. I have the townland of Alton, Meenacladdy and Torry, with the two other islands of Innishdowey and Innishbeg.

5776. Was the townland of Alton let to a Scotchman?—Yes.

5777. In what year did you purchase it?—In the year 1844.

5778. Alton is one of the townlands which is said to have been taken from the people and given to Scotchmen, is it not?—It is.

5779. Lord *Naas.*] What parish is Alton in?—It is in the parish of Tullaghobegly.

5780. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] In what barony is it?—The barony of Kilmacrennan.

5781. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] At one time, shortly after your purchase, you had some intention of building there, had you not?—Yes; this townland of Alton is a very romantic spot, and very much admired, and I had some notion of building a cottage on it for a summer residence occasionally; in consequence of this intention I opened a negotiation with a man of the name of M'Swine, or Sweeney, who was the tenant of the whole; he was my tenant from year to year, and I had the right of evicting him in the ordinary way; nevertheless, as I had always recognised the claims of good-will, or, as it is called now, tenant right, I did not attempt to do it, but I opened a negotiation to settle with him upon such terms as I could, and he promised me that he would settle, but after several attempts he broke his word about it, and did not settle; then I served him with a notice to quit, and brought an ejectment, but, notwithstanding having an ejectment, I did not think that it was sufficient to justify my taking his holding without payment, and I still continued to negotiate. He did at last come to terms with me, and an agreement was made that I should pay to him the sum of 75 *l.* in hand, that I should forgive two years' rent, and that I should give up the costs that had been incurred, and that I should make other allowances afterwards on his removal. Before I closed with him, it was intimated to me, to my great astonishment, the very important part that the priests take in that part of the country in the management of the landlord's property, and I declined closing with him until Mr. Friel, the then parish priest, would become security for the performance of the contract, without which I had been informed I was not likely to have it concluded in a satisfactory way. Mr. Friel met me on the subject, and agreed to become surety, and we afterwards executed an agreement. If the Committee pleases, I should like to read a copy of that agreement, which I hold in my hand. This is the property upon which this unfortunate business about the sheep-stealing has broken out, and it is alleged that the mountains have been taken from the people, and that they have been driven to those acts of violence, by reason of the unfair conduct of the landlord, and I insist that that is a false statement.

5782. Will you read the substance of the agreement?—The substance of the agreement is this: "Mr. Woodhouse will give Hugh M'Swine, otherwise Sweeney,

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the sum of 75 *l.*, and forgive him all rent and costs now due in consideration of Hugh Sweeney giving up to Mr. Woodhouse the possession, tenant right, good-will, and other claim of every kind, in and to the farm at Alton; 40 *l.* of said sum is now paid to the said Hugh Sweeney in hand, and the remainder is to be paid at November 1848, on getting up the house and laboured land as hereafter mentioned." Then there is a covenant in it; Sweeney says that "Mr. Woodhouse having agreed to give said sum of 75 *l.*, and give up the arrear of rent and costs of ejectment due to him for the sake of peace, and to obtain the good wish and will of the said Hugh Sweeney on leaving the place, the said Hugh Sweeney, for himself, his wife, and children, doth hereby undertake and promise and pledge his faith as an honest man, that Mr. Woodhouse shall not get any kind of annoyance, trouble or disturbance, directly or indirectly, by acts, deeds, language, letter, notice, or otherwise, for or on account or by reason of taking said farm," and so on; and the priest undertakes to be surety for performance of the agreement.

5783. Were the terms of the agreement carried out?—The terms of the agreement were carried out. The only thing that I have to say particularly on that subject is, that I saw from the state of the house, and the state of Sweeney himself, the kind of way in which the people of that country live; for according to the description I have heard about destitution given before this Committee, he was one of the most destitute persons you have heard of. He had his cows, and sheep, and goats all in the room with himself; he had a most wretched and miserable bed; he had wretched and miserable clothes, and the house was quite in ruins; and when I remonstrated with him about having cows in the house with him, he said "Oh, it would not do at all to send them out, for there are a great many warm slops they get in the house that they would not get if they were out," and he refused to send them out. It was agreed by my manager and Sweeney, that I should pay for the manure that was taken out of the inside of his dwelling-house, at the rate of 1 *s.* a load. There were two men employed, I think, for three days, to throw out the manure; my man said he only got 40 load of manure out of the dwelling, and Sweeney said he got 51, and I could only settle it by splitting the difference.

5784. Lord *Naas.*] When was this?—This was in 1848; and the reason why I tell that story is, that after hearing all this evidence about pitying the people for their wretched condition, I made inquiry, and I found that Sweeney took away in money due to him and stock, and what I gave him, about 400 *l.* worth.

5785. How much land did he hold?—One thousand five hundred acres.

5786. Did he hold the whole townland?—The whole townland.

5787. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] And yet the appearance of his house to a stranger was most miserable?—He would have done for the show for the newspaper reporters.

5788. After Sweeney was gone, what took place?—After Sweeney was gone I still continued to have the idea in my head about building a house, and I gave directions about making a road. The road was a very long one indeed; it was made as cheaply as possible, still it cost me 250 *l.* to make this road down to the lake from the main road; and I expended other money in different things about it; but I afterwards changed my mind about building a house. I then thought of setting it, and I did let it to several persons, Sweeney being gone, and the matter being quite settled. I never had any complaint from Sweeney or any one else on the subject.

5789. What steps did you take towards setting the place?—I think I let it to Mr. Forster first; then I let it to Mr. Seaver; then Mr. Seaver left it; and I advertised the place to be let at the Gweedore Hotel on the 22d of September 1854, and that I would receive proposals for it.

5790. Before you go on, I wish to ask you whether you had the exclusive possession of Alton; were there any rights reserved?—Nothing at all was reserved.

5791. Were no rights of grazing and commonage reserved to any other person?—No, I never heard of any person having any other right upon it but myself.

5792. You state that you advertised the property?—Yes, I advertised in a Scotch paper, and perhaps in the Derry papers, to say that I would attend at the Gweedore Hotel to receive proposals, and to let it. I did attend, and I received three proposals; I received a proposal from John O'Donnell for 9 *l.* 10 *s.* for the whole townland, after all the money that I had laid out on it. The next proposal was from Edward Sweeney, who offered me 13 *l.*; and the third proposal was from a Mr. Wright, of Aberdeen, who offered me 50 *l.*, therefore I closed with that. O'Donnell was not at the inn at the time, but Sweeney was there, and I spoke to him about the matter; I talked a little with him, and I asked him why

why it was that he would only give me so small a sum; and he sat down with me, and showed me what the mountain was worth, according to his notions; he showed me that he could not possibly graze more than 20 head of horned cattle and 60 sheep, and that he could not possibly afford to give more than 13 *l.* I had Mr. Wright's offer before me of 50 *l.*, and of course I did not take Sweeney's; I asked him to retire for a little, and consider further. He went out, and came back after some time, and he told me that he thought he would go the length of 15 *l.*, but he could not possibly give a farthing more, because the land could not possibly be made to pay it; I mention this, to show the Committee the different estimate of value there may be in these things. I then read to him Mr. Wright's offer, and I asked him which he thought I ought to take, and he said himself that I ought to take the 50 *l.*, and I have done so.

5793. You accepted Mr. Wright as a tenant?—Yes, and in the following September I saw 800 sheep upon this mountain, and I understood afterwards that he had 1,100; and not only was there sufficient grazing for them, but they were remarkably fat; my attention was called to their fatness.

5794. Lord *Naas.*] Were they the black-faced sheep?—Yes, they were the black-faced Scotch kind; they had been brought from Scotland.

5795. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] It was upon those sheep, was it not, that the first outrage was committed in that country?—It was.

5796. Lord *Naas.*] Before Sweeney gave up the farm, had anybody else the right of grazing cattle upon that townland except Sweeney?—No one; nor did anybody allege any right that I heard of. I have no tenants near Alton, and therefore nobody could have any claim at all.

5797. *Chairman.*] Whom did you purchase the property from?—From Mr. Thomas Olphert.

5798. Did you purchase all his property in that district?—No, he has another property in the district.

5799. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Although there was no legal right, was the right of grazing exercised by other people?—No.

5800. Are any of the people in that district of country in the habit of grazing, either by trespass or in any other way, on that townland of Alton, except Sweeney?—Nobody except Sweeney. I never heard of such a thing. It is not very well fenced, and I dare say there might be trespassers now and then.

5801. When it is stated that the proprietors taking away the mountain from the people is one of the causes of the alleged destitution, that statement in your case is totally false?—It is totally inapplicable to the subject at all; and yet, on the 10th of December 1856, in this townland of Alton, the shepherd was attacked. I have got a copy of the information in my hand.

5802. Lord *Naas.*] What was the shepherd's name?—Sillicoe.

5803. Was he a Scotchman?—Yes, he was. I understand that he came from the Western Islands.

5804. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You say that he was attacked?—Yes; his house was attacked, and they robbed him of his watch, and ordered him to leave the country, and warned that they would let no more of his countrymen come there; they also destroyed 87 sheep. I see by return in my hand that 380 sheep have been destroyed on Alton.

5805. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Were their carcases found?—No; there was a presentment for them; they were not found at all. I am not acquainted with the particulars, but I know the presentments were for 380 in all.

5806. Lord *Naas.*] What was the date of the attack on the shepherd?—The 10th of December 1856.

5807. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] After the attack upon the shepherd, and the loss of some sheep, what occurred next?—I find that Mr. Wright wrote to me then that he would surrender the place; I have here a list of what he has suffered upon the lands; and Mr. Wright wrote that he would surrender the place, and he drove off his sheep; and, fortunately for me, Mr. Hunter, who is here, met part of the stock going away at Malins, and he purchased them from him, and he took his place after Mr. Wright had abandoned it; Mr. Wright and I had some correspondence about it; I thought he should have fought the battle a little longer; but he thought he was not safe.

5808. Lord *Naas.*] Did Mr. Wright tell you so himself?—Yes.

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5809. Mr. Hunter is now in Mr. Wright's place?—Yes; Mr. Hunter is now in Wright's place.

5810. Are there any people living on Alton?—No; there never was any tenant on Alton but Sweeney; only one tenant; it never was divided at all.

5811. Are there any people living on it; is there no house?—There is one house, the shepherd's house, which is the only house on the townland.

5812. *Chairman.*] Were there any houses on it when you purchased it from Mr. Olphert, except the one house that Sweeney lived in?—Not one.

5813. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] With regard to the townland of Meenacladdy, what is the acreage of that townland?—There are about 1,955 acres in it.

5814. How much of that is mountain land?—I think there are about a couple of hundred acres of cultivated land.

5815. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Is this in the Cloughaneely or the Gweedore district?—I do not understand the difference between the districts; I believe it is in Cloughaneely; it is in Tullaghobegly parish.

5816. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Do you know how many families are living in that townland?—There are about 30 families upon Meenacladdy.

5817. When you first purchased the property, was it what you call rundale?—Yes it was.

5818. What steps did you take with regard to that?—I took a great deal of trouble surveying and getting it out of rundale, and we got it out of rundale with great difficulty, the people were so much opposed to it. I had a great deal of trouble also about the houses; I attempted to improve the wretched condition of the houses, that is the ordinary description that would be given of the houses. I I was anxious to get them into a different way of living. It appeared very strange to me, not seeing the like at home; but I met with the greatest possible opposition from the people. However, a good many of the houses have been moved, and I think the houses are something better.

5819. You divided all those farms, and put every man upon his own farm, and built him a house, or assisted him to build; what assistance did you give in the way of building?—I do not recollect what the assistance was given, but I spent a great deal of money in Meenacladdy. I do not recollect about the houses, though I had done something for them about windows or doors; but there was a great deal of money spent making a road through it.

5820. Did you spend any money upon building?—Yes.

5821. Lord *Naas.*] Who paid for the road?—I paid for it, through Mr. Hansom, who was the sub-tenant at that time. I lent him the money.

5822. Was it a private road?—It was. We alleged that it was a public road, and I believe there had been a presentment made for it; but Mr. Hansom paid the money for it, as already mentioned.

5823. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] After having divided the townland as you have described, had you a valuation?—I had. I employed Mr. Sweeney. I required some rise of rent; and those lands appeared to me to be of considerable value, seeing the enormous tenant-right that they were giving; people assured me that they were of more value than the rent I was receiving.

5824. What was the rent of the townland?—It was 39*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* when I bought it; it is now 54*l.* The Government valuation is 54*l.* 3*s.*, which is below the letting value.

5825. So that your rent is not at present higher than the Government valuation?—It is not; it will be 3*s.* less.

5826. In this townland was there any portion of the mountains in your own occupation?—Yes; I did not conduct any of the matter myself, but the gentleman who acted for me informed me that he had not made any arrangements about giving the tenants any mountain, and in the way in which he had left it, the mountain would have been taken from them, but they applied to me on the subject, and I considered the matter, and saw that there ought to be a fair proportion of grazing allotted to them, and I gave directions to the surveyor to see what stock they had, and what would be a fair proportion to give them; and accordingly the surveyor made a survey, which I have here, and he laid off what he thought was a fair thing.

5827. What year was this in?—This was in the year 1855; two years ago I think it is.

5828. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] When was the rent raised?—I think it was raised in 1855; the survey was made some time afterwards, and then the surveyor, in returning

returning me the survey, says here, that he recommends that all within that red line (*pointing to a plan*) should be given to the people as being a sufficient allowance for their grazing; but he says that the people wanted to get the blue line; that was the argument between us; I met the tenants, by appointment, at the Gweedore Hotel; the tenants assembled, and we discussed the subject in the ordinary way of bargain-making, that is, I wanted to confine them to the red line, and they wanted to have the blue line; and the upshot of it was, that I confined them to the red line, and I gave them 50 acres more to satisfy them.

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5829. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You gave them 50 acres more than was originally laid off by the surveyor, as sufficient for their stock?—Yes.

5830. How many acres can you state were laid off for them?—Four hundred and seventy-five acres were laid off by the surveyor. Then they were to get 50 acres of the mountain, and the portion remaining to me would be 1,119 acres, 1 rood, 32 perches.

5831. That 1,119 acres you retained in your own occupation?—Yes, exclusively.

5832. Giving no right to any one of grazing and commonage?—No.

5833. Lord *Naas.*] Who was this surveyor?—Mr. Charles Sweeny; he will be here.

5834. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Then this 1,119 acres you retained in your own occupation?—I did.

5835. Lord *Naas.*] Did Mr. Sweeny inform you that this portion of the mountain that he laid off for the use of the people was sufficient to support the quantity of cattle that they were in the habit of keeping?—He did; that was the principle upon which he made it.

5836. And upon which you agreed to it?—Yes.

5837. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You added 50 acres more, did you not?—Yes, to satisfy the tenants.

5838. What did you do with the 1,119 acres?—The next thing was, I thought to get it let, and to put an end to argument upon the subject, it was necessary to divide it from the part that was retained to the people; and I said there ought to be a ditch made, or somebody present said there ought to be a ditch made; and the end of it was, the people, being perfectly satisfied with the agreement, proposed to make a ditch, and there was an agreement made with them about making this ditch. They did make this ditch, and I produce the bill; and I paid them 13 *l.* 11 *s.* 6 *d.* for making the ditch.

5839. You paid that money to divide your portion of the grazing from their portion of the grazing?—Yes.

5840. What was the next step?—The next step was, that I advertised the mountain, and I had applications for it.

5841. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Did I rightly understand that the tenants cut the ditch themselves, and you paid them?—Yes.

5842. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You advertised the remaining portion to be let?—I advertised the remaining portion to be let, and I had several offers for it; the tenants themselves sent me a message, that I was quite at liberty to let it.

5843. They gave you leave to let it?—They gave me to understand that they had no objection, and we were all on good terms about it. A Mr. Smith, I think it was, from Ayrshire, came over, and went to the place, and he heard that some other legislator in that country would not permit me to set any ground; the effect of that has been that other people have been warned off, and I have never been able to let it since; and that is known over the whole country.

5844. Mr. Smith, you say, was warned off?—Yes.

5845. Lord *Naas.*] By whom was Mr. Smith warned off?—It was alleged that the priests would not allow it to be let; at all events, it is not let; it is an order of the priests, and I have lost it for two years, and I have no prospect of getting it let.

5846. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Who was the priest at that time?—The Rev. Mr. M'Fadden.

5847. When you say it was alleged that the priest would not let it be set, have you anything more specific to go upon?—No, I have not.

5848. However, it is not let?—It is not let.

5849. Is it still waste?—It is.

5850. Lord *Naas.*] Have you any one there to look after it?—There is a man there whose duty it is to look after it, but he does not appear to be doing anything.

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5851. Is there any stock on it?—No, there are no cattle there.

5852. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Do the people trespass on it?—They do. I get nothing for it. I have done everything that man can do in that townland to satisfy their claims, but it seems it has all gone for nothing.

5853. Is the condition of the people in that townland bad?—I have not personally inspected anything; therefore I cannot take upon me to say. I believe they are a great deal better than they used to be; they have suffered no injury by my proceedings about the mountains, that is quite clear.

5854. In fact, the mountain that you hold was taken by common consent into your own hands, assented to by the people, and fenced at your expense by them?—Yes it was.

5855. Did you make any new cuts upon them?—Mr. Hanson, who took the place, and whose name I mentioned before, had expended money upon it, which I advanced.

5856. Was he formerly the proprietor?—No, he was the tenant; he was sent by me.

5857. Was he sent by you to lay out some new cuts?—No; he took the place from me as tenant.

5858. Did he make some new cuts?—He reclaimed a portion of the land, but I was obliged to part with him, as he did not do well; and when he went away, I, having spent money advanced to him, thought I would endeavour to get some return out of the reclaimed land, for he had crops of oats upon it during two years.

5859. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Did he get the seed back from the crop of oats, as has been said?—I believe he did; I saw the crop growing, he took me to see it growing, and it appeared to me a very good crop; I was not there at the time of the harvest.

5860. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Have there been any complaints made to you by any tenants on that townland?—None; but I wish to explain about the cuts. There were cuts made, and I think six of them were taken, and after all this money had been spent upon the cuts, amounting, as Mr. Hanson said, to from 5 *l.* to 10 *l.* an acre, I thought they ought to pay some decent rent; I asked 5 *s.* an acre, and we had a meeting for the letting. The people argued the matter with me; they said they would only give 3 *s.* After some further discussion, I agreed to 3 *s.*, and if destitution has been brought upon them by those cuts it is very extraordinary, for from that hour to this I have never got a halfpenny; they never paid a farthing of the 3 *s.*, or any other sum, for the new cuts.

5861. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] What year was that?—That was two years ago. In February last my agent, I am told, processed them, but they wrote to me that they had been paying the sheep tax, and were poor, and I wrote back to stop proceedings.

5862. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Was anything said to you about Patrick Ferry which would lead you to think that there was destitution there?—I never heard of anything about destitution. A deputation came down to me to ask if I could do anything to relieve them from the sheep tax; and the only story I have to tell about the sheep tax is, that Patrick Ferry, one of the tenants who has got relief from the priests, had 1 *l.* 3 *s.* to pay, and he gave a 5 *l.* note in the place of a 1 *l.* note; he had other notes, and in taking out this note he took a 5 *l.* note out in place of a 1 *l.* note, and then he came to me to try to get it back, and I did interfere. I went to Mr. Young, the receiver, and Mr. Young said that he counted the money at night, and that he had no more money than there would have been if he had only got a 1 *l.* note, and he refused to give him anything.

5863. The man thought he had lost a 5 *l.* note?—He thought he had lost a 5 *l.* note in paying his sheeptax.

5864. You stated just now that Mr. M'Fadden was the parish priest at that time. Are you sure it was Mr. M'Fadden, or was it Mr. Doherty?—I am not quite sure. I was not there at the time; on farther consideration, I believe Meenacladdy was in Mr. Doherty's parish.

5865. Have you anything to state about a man named O'Donnell?—Yes, I wish to say something about O'Donnell, because I see in the pamphlet that was published, a most extraordinary story told about a man named Philip O'Donnell, which is quite untrue, like the rest of the stories in that pamphlet.

5866. Do you allude to a pamphlet published by Mr. Holland, who was a witness here?—I do, one of the newspaper witnesses.

5867. Will you state what you wish to say about O'Donnell. Did you see those things mentioned in the newspaper?—I did, and in the pamphlet.

5868. As having appeared before the Committee?—No, not as having appeared before the Committee. But independently of that, I should like to explain in reference to the management of my property. The story is this: It is represented that I had raised the rent of this man, of the name of Philip O'Donnell, three times. The circumstances are these: O'Donnell held a farm at 1 *l.* 5 *s.*, and he desired to go to America, and my manager bought his tenant-right in this farm for 20 *l.* Afterwards the same farm was let to a person from the county of Armagh, of the name of Black. I gave that man, for reclamation, 54 *l.* Black did not do well upon it, and went away; and I think a man of the name of M'Fadden came next upon it. But finally O'Donnell came back from America, and he bought back into the place again, and he is charged a rent of 4 *l.* I feel that I am not charging too much, if, the original rent being 1 *l.* 5 *s.*, I charge 4 *l.* after an expenditure of 74 *l.*; and yet I have been held up as an oppressor and a tyrant because I do so.

5869. We will go to the Island of Tory; will you describe the state of things there?—I bought the Island of Tory, with some other property, in the year following. I do not know what the Island of Tory is valued at as land, but the true value consists in the enormous quantity of sea-weed that comes upon its shore, and its local situation for fishing; that is the true value of Tory, though it is not valued by any Government valuator; and yet it is a value, and a value which, if I had the place in my own hands, would be very important to me.

5870. Arising from kelp?—Yes, arising from kelp. The year after I got that island, Mr. Downey, a merchant from Glasgow, came to Ramellon, and offered, if I would put the tenants off the island, that he would give me 500 *l.* a year for it; and rather than disturb the tenants or embarrass them in their holdings and remove them, I refused it; and since that time, down to last year, I have been receiving, instead of that well-paid 500 *l.* a year, a very ill-paid 150 *l.*

5871. It was stated to this Committee, by one of the witnesses, that the Glasgow merchants were prevented from coming to the island, and buying the kelp, in consequence of a proceeding of yours upon the island; will you have the goodness to explain that to the Committee?—In the year 1856 the price of kelp was very high; the price of it was 6*l.* or 6 *l.* 10*s.* a ton, and I felt that I ought to get an advance of rent; the people were in flourishing circumstances; they were pocketing a very large sum of money, and I was getting no return for it in any way. The sea-weed, I should state, I claim to be mine. This weed that comes in upon the shore is my property. Other proprietors get it, and get the whole value of it. I have been getting nothing for it. However, I thought it would be a fair claim for me to ask for an advance of rent. Accordingly I went out to the island, and called the inhabitants together, and I had a very large crowd of them, and I told them what I wanted; that I thought the time was come when they ought to make some advance of rent, in consequence of the very high price of kelp. They did not agree to it just at the time, but there was some discussion about it. I said, "That we were rather a numerous party for discussion, and I thought it would be a much more convenient way if the two villages on the property appointed deputies to meet me the next morning, and arrange what advance they would give me." Accordingly next morning, at 11 o'clock, the deputies from two villages on the island met me at a cottage; we went into the business. I told them what I had to say, and they told me their story; and amongst other things, they said there was a very bad crop of grain that year, and that it had been injured by something or other. There was a good deal more said about the matter. Of course I wanted an advance, and they wanted it to be as small as possible. But the end of it was, that they offered me an advance of one-third more rent. I agreed to it, and then we made a memorandum of it, and those who were present signed it; and the island people were collected in squads of a dozen at a time all day, signing this agreement, and they were quite pleased, and satisfied. They got a treat from me, and everything went off very agreeably; and I do not understand how from that anybody has taken upon him to tell here that anything was not fairly done; for if I ever saw a contract in my life fairly made, that contract was to the satisfaction of every one. There was no coercion in any form whatever, and I was so particular about using anything like undue influence, that when I made

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made my speech to them, I went out for an hour, and left them alone to consider it; and I afterwards came back, and made the contract.

5872. Was that contract adhered to?—It was; so far as the people are concerned I know of no breach of it. In the following season, that is the last season, in the month of August I believe it was, they began to collect the kelp together; it had been the custom always in that island for whoever bought the kelp to collect my rent, or to give assistance in collecting it; the rents there are not paid out of the crop; the crop is used for provisions; the rent is paid out of the kelp.

5873. That is to say, the merchant who bought the kelp considered your rent as a lien on the kelp?—He did, always; and he has always assisted me to collect it, and he has always paid me. There was something went wrong about it last year: a mischief maker interfered. I was not there at the time. The witness who was examined here is blamed for interfering against me: a man named James Doughan was purchasing kelp, and was the real owner at that time; he did not collect the rent, and there was a difference between my manager and him; and my manager detained the kelp, which Doughan intended to ship for Mr. Patterson. I say, notwithstanding contradiction here, that this island is held in Rundale in law; and I have a surveyor employed for the purpose of completing the subdivision, and therefore had a right to seize for the whole rent. I do not know the particulars of the stoppage of the kelp, but I was applied to on the subject. A letter came to me to Kerry Keel from James Doughan, and also a letter from Mr. Patterson. I do not like seizures, and I have not dealt much in seizing people for rent, either due or not due, particularly if not due. I never seized any one's goods for rent not due. Mr. Patterson was corresponding with me on other matters at the time, and I immediately wrote to stop the proceedings, whatever they were. I do not know whether the kelp was really seized or not; I heard no more at that time; there was a meeting afterwards in Kerry Keel about the matter, and we had a good deal of argument between Mr. Montague and Mr. Gallagher, my agent, and the matter was ended.

5874. Is there anything further that you wish to explain to the Committee?—I wish to explain, that the tenants paid no money to relieve a distress of the kelp; they did not pay anything at that time; but about six weeks afterwards I went up to the Crossroads; the tenants desired that they should see me myself, and I went up, and I sat present, and they paid the rent without any objection, or any reference to anything about seizures; I never heard a word of objection to the increase of rent, nor a syllable said against it; it was never named; and the only thing remarkable about our meeting was, that I had a copy of the Petition to Parliament with me, to which their names had been put, and I read some paragraphs to the people, at which they laughed heartily; and in the payments for some of the small rents, I observed that I got three 10*l.* notes.

5875. Lord *Naas.*] When was it that you read those paragraphs?—The latter end of September last.

5876. They did not believe what you read?—They laughed at it, and we all laughed.

5877. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] It was given in evidence here that they all consented to sign the petition; how was that?—It must have been very extraordinary if they were the people that had been to Gortahork to consent to it; I do not think there was one of them there.

5878. Lord *Naas.*] What quantity of kelp do they generally sell off this island?—I have got a return, and I find here, that in 1851, as well as we can make it out, they sold 120 tons.

5879. What did that bring in?—£. 480; in 1852 they sold 172 tons, 768*l.*; in 1853, 186 tons, 649*l.* 10*s.*; in 1854, 165 tons, 702*l.* 5*s.*; in 1855, 148 tons, 555*l.*; in 1856, 180 tons at 4*l.*, 720*l.*; in 1857, 152 tons, 902*l.*; all that I was wanting out of the 902*l.* was to get this increase of a third, while they themselves were getting an increase of 500*l.* on former years.

5880. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] What rent were they paying during those years?—£. 157.

5881. Are any people that paid that rent engaged in the occupation of making kelp?—I believe they all make kelp.

5882. Are they making kelp this year, do you know?—They are; I wish to state, as an observation has been made here about the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden inquiring about the kelp, and that the Scotch merchants refuse to buy this year; I wish that Mr. M'Fadden would let that business alone; I think it is more my business

business to inquire about the sale of kelp, because if they do not get sale for their kelp I get no rent at all. This year I have had several applications to recommend an agent to buy the kelp, and Mr. Penny, a Glasgow merchant, has employed a man recommended by me, and I expect that he will give the very fullest price for it.

5883. You think there will be no difficulty in the people selling their kelp this year?—Not the least; there is plenty of competition.

5884. And there is no indisposition on the part of the kelp dealers to come?—No; Mr. Penny wrote me the other day he was ready to send 500 *l.* to commence purchasing.

5885. Besides the kelp, they have land, have they not?—Yes.

5886. Do they grow crops on the land?—Yes; there are 800 acres, and I calculate that, independently of their labour, and of the gardens, and various other small things, they make about 1,500 *l.* a-year out of it.

5887. At all events, do they grow as much on the land as will support themselves?—I believe so; but I believe they use up what they grow in provisions.

5888. They do not sell their crops?—I do not think they sell either corn or potatoes; not much; or, at all events, they use it for their own support.

5889. At other times of the year, when they are not making kelp, how do they employ themselves?—They have to labour the land; I calculate that there are 300 acres of arable land in the island, and there are 300 acres more of, I suppose, tolerably good grazing.

5890. Are the principal occupations the labouring of the land and making kelp?—Yes; and fishing.

5891. Have they boats?—They have boats.

5892. What sort of boats are they?—There are a good many wooden boats now; but the boats they used to have were curraghs; and they have a very peculiar custom there in their fishing, to take the turbot and put them in holes and tie them; their expression is, they "tether the turbot."

5893. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] What is the object of that?—It is to keep them, and they pull them out when they want them; it is bad thing, and it totally wastes the fish.

5894. Lord *Naas*.] Do they fish in winter?—I suppose they do not; I am not there in the winter.

5895. Do they dry the fish that they catch in summer for winter use, or do they sell it?—They do sell some fish off it, but I do not know how they manage about the fish; I am told that there is a very fine cod bank off the island.

5896. Sir *Edmund Hayes*.] Do they use any sea-weed in that district?—I never heard that any of them used sea-weed; they have a peculiar custom in that district; I am told that they give fish to their horses.

5897. The people of this district was very much afraid of being brought under taxation, were they not?—They were.

5898. Did any of them attend upon you as a deputation to try and prevent it?—Yes, I met some of them about it; they were threatening some bad behaviour about something or other, and I threatened to bring the police on them.

5899. They are not under taxation now, are they?—No.

5900. Lord *Naas*.] What do you mean by their threatening bad behaviour?—We had constant arguments about one thing and another; they pulled down a pound and other things; it is not easy managing them, and I being at a great distance cannot make much of them; and I have other interference to contend with, which makes it very troublesome to deal with them.

5901. Sir *Edmund Hayes*.] Have you anything else you wish to state to the Committee?—Yes; it has been stated here that I got duty days; I wish to state that I take no duty days at all.

5902. Have you ever ejected any tenant?—I have never ejected any tenant.

5903. Nor taken any mountains from them?—Nor taken any mountains from them; I have taken no mountains otherwise than in the manner I have described to the Committee; I have not ejected any of the native tenants; I have not sold any goods for non-payment of rent; I do not believe there is any tenant that I have in that part who could not sell his tenant-right for as much money as I could get for the fee-simple.

5904. You are the owner, are you not, of a small island called Islanddowey?—Yes.

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5905. Have you anything to state with regard to that?—Yes; I have to state that I felt that the tenants were not paying me a fair rent; there are two persons holding the island who were not paying me a fair rent, and I called upon one of them to give me an increase; I was informed that that place was worth 100 *l.* a year, and he is paying me 15 *l.* I wanted an increase of rent, and he would not agree to it, and I served him with a notice to quit. I was applied to by my manager, Gallagher, to apply to the Bishop to get an order to a strange priest to hear his wife's confession, inasmuch as the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden would not hear it, in consequence of his serving my notice.

5906. You mean to say that you employed Gallagher to serve a legal notice?—I do.

5907. In consequence of that he was refused the rites of his church?—He was, and he applied to me to apply to the Bishop to get an order for a strange priest to hear her confession; since that there has been an interdict upon any boat going to the island, and I could not get the ejectment executed.

5908. Lord *Naas.*] What do you mean by an interdict?—It is understood that the priests do not allow any boat to put off about any business of mine.

5909. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Does the court of arbitrators sit in that neighbourhood to regulate the price of kelp and land, and so forth?—I believe so; they appear to do the whole of the business there, interfering in everything.

5910. Lord *Naas.*] Were you in possession of the estate in 1847, 1848 and 1849?—I was.

5911. Were there any applications made to you for relief from the people?—There were. I was immediately applied to on the distress appearing; and I was one of the first persons that came to that part of the country, and set the people to work, and I also joined in a subscription to the committee, and I see my name is down for 10 *l.*; I used every exertion for the relief of the people.

5912. Was any similar application made to you in the last two years?—None whatever; and if there had been any reasonable, well-grounded application, I most undoubtedly would have exerted myself. I always served on charitable committees in other places, and take an active part in relief; and I should have been equally anxious to take the same active part there.

5913. In your opinion, if anything like the same state of circumstances existed on your property now as did in the famine year, applications would have been made to you for relief?—I have no doubt of it at all.

5914. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] You reside in Armagh, do you not?—I do, principally.

5915. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] I only want to know if you took some 600 or 700 acres away from your tenants in Meenacladdy?—I admit that I have taken 1,119 acres, but I have described the circumstances under which I took it.

5916. Did you double the rent?—I took a third more, except in this case of O'Donnell's, which I have described. I should like to state that I have got mountain property in other places. For example, I have got a mountain townland in the county of Armagh, and as I have heard described here the state of destitution, and the state of the houses, and all that, I would say that I was in the parish of Killevy, some time ago, and I saw identically the same description of house used by the native population; there was one in particular that I was anxious to get pulled down, and I proposed to the tenant to advance him money, but he would not do anything.

5917. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Do you often visit that district yourself?—No; I do not visit it very often.

5918. Who manages for you in that district?—The present man who manages at Tory and Meenacladdy is Daniel Gallagher.

5919. When was it that you let Meenacladdy to Mr. Hanson?—It was, I suppose, seven years ago.

5920. How long did he hold it?—He held it until this rise took place.

5921. That was about 1856, was it not?—Yes, it was.

5922. I suppose the occupying tenants held under him?—They were to pay him; but it made no difference, they paid me just the same.

5923. Did they pay him the same rent that they afterwards paid you?—Precisely, except as to the difference occasioned by the rise that I made.

5924. Did they pay less rent to Mr. Hanson than they paid to you?—I want to convey to the Committee that they continued to pay the old rent to Mr. Hanson, but it was on the occasion of Mr. Hanson going away that I got the increase.

5925. What

5925. What rent did Mr. Hanson pay you?—He never paid, but he contracted to pay for this mountain a considerable rent.

5926. He failed, did he not?—He did.

5927. During his time were they allowed to graze over the whole mountain?—He attempted to stop them, and he made a seizure on one occasion, and put a person's cows in the pound, but he told me it was a strange trespasser, and Mr. Doherty gave an order to the pound-keeper to turn them out, and the magistrates then fined the pound-keeper for obeying Doherty's order.

5928. Did the people, in point of fact, exercise the privilege of grazing cattle over the whole mountain in Mr. Hanson's time?—I think it is very likely that the cattle may have run over the whole mountain, but Mr. Hanson privately complained to me of strange trespassers from other lands.

5929. I am speaking of the tenants of the land, did they, in point of fact, exercise the privilege of grazing cattle over the whole mountain?—I would be willing to suppose that they did.

5930. When was it that you say the Rev. Mr. Doherty gave the order to the pound-keeper; do you know anything, in point of fact, yourself, as to that?—I have an abstract of the proceedings in the petty sessions book.

5931. Was the Rev. Mr. Doherty there?—I cannot tell that; I do not mean to charge that against the Rev. Mr. Doherty at all. I am only telling you what was the report of the country.

5932. Did not he, in point of fact, deny that he had given the order?—I do not remember hearing that.

5933. You never knew him admit that he had done it?—I do not remember Mr. Doherty ever admitting it.

5934. All you know is from report?—From the report of the country. I heard every one say that Mr. Doherty turned out the cows.

5935. Do you remember Mr. Hanson having 74 acres under oats at that time?—I do not know the number of acres; but he took me down at one time to see what he was doing; he was boasting of it, and he took me down to show how well he was doing.

5936. When this ditch was made did the people complain after that, that they had not enough grazing for their cattle?—I do not recollect hearing that; on the contrary, I know that the day that we were at the Gweedore Hotel everybody was pleased.

5937. After that did they say that they had not enough?—I do not recollect that they did; I do not believe they ever did.

5938. At the time of this rise did you make any promise of leases to them?—I did. I told them I would give them leases, and I got leases printed for them; and I told them that they should have them free of all expense but the stamp; the stamp was only 1 *s.*, but they would not give it for them. I was very willing to give them leases; I wanted to have no more talk about lettings.

5939. Did you ever refuse to give any of them leases?—No, I never did. I do not mean to say that I would now give them leases, because matters have taken a very different turn; I feel that I have performed my contract by offering them leases, and getting them printed; and I do not feel myself now called upon to give any leases.

5940. You said something about Mr. Wright, the Scotchman, being warned off; do you know that of your own knowledge?—No, I do not.

5941. You stated also, that some priest had said that he would not allow the mountain to be taken?—I do not know that of my own knowledge, but from the report of the country.

5942. Who was, in point of fact, the priest of the parish at that time?—I do not distinguish between them. I hear them talking about the priest in everything.

5943. Do you know who was the parish priest or the curate?—I now recollect that Meenacladdy is in what was the Rev. Mr. Doherty's district.

5944. What is the name of the parish?—I do not know the Roman-catholic name of the parish, but the general name of it, the legal name, is Tullaghobegley.

5945. There are two Tullaghobegleys, are there not?—I believe the Roman-catholic division is in two, East and West.

5946. Was the Rev. Mr. Doherty the parish priest or the curate at the time that this message was sent?—My impression is this, that the allegation was that it

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it was the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden who spoke against me, but I do not take upon me to say.

5947. Which of the Mr. M'Faddens do you mean?—The elder Mr. M'Fadden, who is not here.

5948. However, you know nothing at all about it yourself?—No, I do not.

5949. Tory Island was let, was it not, to a person named Robinson?—It was.

5950. What rent does he pay you?—He just paid me the original rent, what the tenants pay. I think it was 135*l.*; that was deducting the tithe-rent charge; it was 135 *l.* clear; the rent is the same, but that is deducted for the tithe-rent charge, which he was to pay.

5951. What was the amount which you raised it to?—I have raised it now, I think, to 216 *l.* 5 *s.* 3 *d.*; but that includes the rent of a house that I built; you may take it at 210 *l.*

5952. I believe the rent is principally paid, according to your evidence, from the kelp?—It is.

5953. Kelp varies in price, does it not?—It does.

5954. It is very much lower this year than when you increased the rent, is it not?—It is; that is what I complain of, that it should be the same as it was. I went to the tenants to ask for a rise of rent, because they were getting 950*l.* in the place of 500*l.*; and if the price came down this year, I should think it fair for the tenants to come back to me, and have a deduction.

5955. Lord *Naas.*] You would be very glad to make that arrangement with them?—I would be very glad, and I think that is the fair way.

5956. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Does the rent, in point of fact, vary?—No; the property is not managed there as it ought to be managed, by reason of the hostile interference.

5957. You say that at the time that this distress was made, you had nothing to do with it?—I was not there at all. I regretted that kelp intended for Mr. Patterson was detained, as I had a friendly correspondence with him at that time, and did not wish kelp intended for him stopped.

5958. Did you sign the warrant for it, or not?—I do not recollect. The agent sends necessary forms to be signed; but I do not go into the particulars of them.

5959. You know that a warrant must be signed by you to make it legal?—Yes, if a distress was made by my authority.

5960. These people all pay separate rents, do they not?—The Rundale people pay separate rents; but I consider it is one holding, and they claim a joint interest.

5961. Did you consider it a legal distress that was made?—I did not see any objection; they hold jointly, and I have not got them finally separated from Rundale. I mean that in a Rundale townland all are liable for the gross rent. I never wrote any letter admitting it to be illegal.

5962. Do they pay it separately?—Yes.

5963. Do you give them separate receipts?—Yes, I do.

5964. Do they hold separate farms?—They claim a joint interest in the whole.

5965. Do they hold separate tenements?—No, that they deny; and that is exactly where the difference is between us.

5966. Have they no separate tenements at all?—I do not think that in a Rundale townland there is in law any separate tenement; at least, so the tenants think.

5967. Is each man liable to all the rent?—So it is; but for each piece they pay separately.

5968. *Chairman.*] Did not you tell the Committee that you always got your rent from the man that bought the kelp?—Generally; or rather he gives assistance to me in the collection of it.

5969. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] The tenants themselves pay you, or they pay your agent, do they not?—Or they pay the kelp-man.

5970. Do you get your rent direct from the merchant?—I have frequently got it direct from the merchant.

5971. Did you get it so for the last four years?—No; Mr. Robinson took it, and I got it from him; I got it from the tenants in September last.

5972. Each man pays, I believe, a separate rent?—Yes; but, as I said, each man claims to be a joint owner of the whole, except in the instance of the holding of a man named Neal Herrighty, and the hotel, and I remember discussing it with them.

5973. Lord *Naas.*] Do you think that that is a bad system?—Very bad, and I am employed in getting out of it as fast as possible; the divisions are nearly completed.

5974. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] You said something about a pound having been pulled down, do you know anything of that yourself?—No, I do not know it, but I went and saw a wall built, and I understood that the priest ordered the pound to be pulled down, and the stones to be taken to build this wall; I did not complain of their building the wall, because the wall was wanted about the grave-yard; but I felt that I ought to have been consulted about the building of a wall upon my property.

5975. Did you go to the priest and ask him about it?—No.

5976. Did you ever give him an opportunity of explaining it, or denying it?—He told me himself that he did.

5977. Who told you that he had pulled down the pound?—Mr. M'Fadden; he told me that he had built the grave-yard wall.

5978. Did he tell you that he pulled down the pound?—I do not mean to say that he told me he had pulled down the pound; but I heard other people say so.

5979. Did you tell him or ask him anything about it?—No; at that time I had not an opportunity; but he told me he built the grave-yard wall.

5980. Do you think it fair to make such a statement about him, that he ordered the pulling down of the pound, without giving him an opportunity of explaining or denying it?—I did not tell you that he had ordered the pulling down of the pound, but people talked about it.

5981. Did you not wish to convey to the Committee that he did do it?—I did not wish to convey to the Committee anything of the sort.

5982. You tell me that Mr. M'Fadden refused to hear the confession of the wife of a man of the name of Daniel Gallagher; is that the gentleman that you see in the room?—No; it was his uncle.

5983. When did you hear that?—I heard it three or four months ago.

5984. Have you been in the district since?—No, I have not.

5985. Did you ever make any communication to the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden, or ask him if there was any truth in the statement?—I did.

5986. When?—I do not remember; I wrote him a note upon that subject, and in answer he said that he had had some conversation with her.

5987. Did he deny it?—I tell you that he denied it in a kind of way.

5988. What is said in the note?—To the best of my recollection, the note was, that he had had some conversation with her on the road, and that he complained of her, or said something against her husband having served my notice.

5989. Did he deny that he refused to hear her confession?—I do not know that I put it so strong to him; he did not admit the charge.

5990. Did you in fact make the charge; did you ask him whether he had refused?—I do not recollect what words I used in the note, but it was upon that subject.

5991. Did you in that note ask whether he had refused to hear that woman's confession because her husband had served your notice?—It is likely; the contents of the note were, asking him if he interfered, and the answer was, that he had met Gallagher's wife on the road, and he had had some conversation with her on the subject, but he did not admit that he had done so.

5992. Did you ever, in point of fact, charge him with what you are now stating?—No, I did not, unless it be in that note; perhaps the note is not so strong as that.

5993. Have you brought his answer here?—I have not it here.

5994. Is that man Gallagher here?—Yes, he will be here.

5995. The Mr. M'Fadden you speak of is not the gentleman who is here?—No, he is not.

5996. *Chairman.*] A statement was made to the Committee that a good deal of the destitution of those people was alleged to have arisen from the mountain land having been taken away from them, and the increase of the rent; you have stated to the Committee, that so far as regards the townland of Meenacluddy, you have taken away 1,119 acres that formerly were in commonage; I do not say whether they had any right to it or not, but that they were, in point of fact in the habit of grazing their cattle over those 1,119 acres, before you made those fresh arrangements upon that map which you have shown the Committee; that is your evidence as far as it goes?—Yes.

5997. And also you stated that you raised the rent one third?—About that; that is in Meenacladdy.

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5998. Is it a matter of fact now, that your tenantry in Meenacladdy have not the right or privilege of grazing over 1,119 acres of land?—That is so.

5999. The fact is that you have raised the rent about one-third?—Yes.

6000. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Had they ever the right?—I do not believe that they ever had a right to it, but I think it is quite possible that their cattle grazed over it; I believe it is far beyond any want that they have.

6001. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do you believe that their cattle graze over it still?—I think that their cattle may now be grazing over it; it may be trespassed on by the country at large, I think.

6002. Mr. *Maguire.*] I think you stated to the Committee, that you were lately offered 500 *l.* a year, as the rent of Tory Island, but that you would not wish to embarrass the tenants by accepting that offer?—That offer was made in 1845.

6003. You refused to accept that offer from a benevolent motive, not desiring the embarrassment of the tenants?—I did not want to put the tenants off the land.

6004. I understand that Mr. Downe's proposition was to give you 500 *l.* a year if you consented to give him possession of the island, minus the tenants?—Exactly.

6005. Therefore, from naturally benevolent motives, you would not consent to embarrass or disturb the tenants?—Yes.

6006. Do you know a gentleman named Mr. Donaghy, of 7, Park-place, Glasgow, a merchant?—Yes, I do, I think.

6007. Did you ever communicate by letter, to that gentleman?—Yes, I did.

6008. Did you ever make any offer to him about three years since?—Yes, we talked about taking the tenants off; but I never took any tenants off, or ejected any one.

Mr. *William Hunter*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *W. Hunter.*

6009. Mr. *Dobbs.*] WHERE do you belong to?—Gweedore.

6010. When did you first go there?—I took land there in July 1856.

6011. Where did you live before?—In Northumberland.

6012. Had you a farm there?—Yes.

6013. From whom did you take land in 1856?—From Mr. Olphert.

6014. What farm did you take there?—Keeldrum mountain, 2,000 acres.

6015. Had you a large stock of sheep there?—I had 725.

6016. Do you recollect when Mr. Wright had the farm of Alton, belonging to Mr. Woodhouse?—I do.

6017. Do you recollect his giving it up?—I do.

6018. Did you take it when Mr. Wright gave it up?—I did.

6019. Are you in possession of it now?—I am.

6020. Do you know the reason why Mr. Wright left it?—I do; it was because he had so many of his sheep destroyed.

6021. Did you know Mr. Huggup who had a farm there?—Yes.

6022. From whom did he take that farm?—Lord George Hill.

6023. Have you that farm now?—I have.

6024. How long have you had it?—I have had it since November last.

6025. You are in possession of the farm of Alton, and Mr. Huggup had the farm you took of Mr. Olphert?—No; he had Lord G. Hill's mountain.

6026. How many acres altogether are you in possession of now?—I do not know exactly. I think it is about 6,000 acres.

6027. How many sheep have you?—Including lambs, I have 2,240.

6028. Do you consider that that land is fit for sheep?—I do.

6029. Are the sheep healthy or otherwise?—Healthy.

6030. Do you recollect when the destruction of sheep first commenced?—I do.

6031. When was it?—It was in February 1857.

6032. Did you lose many sheep?—Altogether, since the commencement, I have lost over 600.

6033. Do you know how many have been made away with altogether?—I believe about 1,300 altogether have been made away with.

6034. Did you lose any sheep the first year that you were there?—Not till the end of the first year, or the commencement of the next year. I went there in July 1856, and I did not lose any sheep until February 1857.

6035. How many did you lose that winter?—I lost 144.

6036. Do

6036. Do you believe that those sheep were made away with maliciously?—I do.

6037. What is your reason for thinking so?—Because the policeman and my shepherd found several of my sheep in bog-holes with their heads cut off, and the sheep's heads dried in bog-holes, and some of them were carcasses of sheep opened and sunk with stones in bog-holes.

6038. What breed of sheep were they?—Black-faced sheep.

6039. Are black-faced sheep likely to stray when they have been some little time in a place, or otherwise?—If you put young sheep on a mountain, and have them kept in a particular place for a week or two, they will not stray after that; but if you get old sheep, you cannot depend upon them.

6040. Had you ewes and many young sheep?—I had nothing but young sheep at first when I went there.

6041. Do you recollect the particular dates at which you lost certain sheep?—I cannot say that I know the particular dates. I lost the first, I think, on the 13th of February.

6042. Can you tell how many you lost on that day?—I think it was 42.

6043. Do you recollect when you next lost any?—I next lost, I think it was in March, 24 sheep.

6044. Do you recollect the next time?—I think it was in April.

6045. How many did you lose then?—Seventy-eight.

6046. Altogether, how many do you say you have lost?—Six hundred, or I may say, over 600.

6047. Do the sheep fatten well on that pasture?—The sheep thrive well.

6048. Is the tract of mountain on which those sheep are peculiarly dangerous or otherwise for sheep?—It is not dangerous.

6049. Do you consider it safe?—I consider it as safe as any land of the same quality that I know of, either in England or Scotland.

6050. In your experience of farming, is it usual to lose a large proportion of sheep on mountain farms, by ordinary loss, by straying, for example?—Not by straying.

6051. Or by injury that could not be avoided?—There is always some loss among a large quantity of sheep.

6052. What should you say is the per-centage?—In Scotland it is often from 5 to 10, or 12 per cent., but in Ireland 3 per cent. is a large average.

6053. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Had you known anything of Ireland before you took this land?—I had; I knew two parties that had mountain farms in the county of Antrim.

6054. Had you any personal knowledge?—No.

6055. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Have you resided in Ireland since the time you went there first, in 1856?—No.

6056. When did you first begin to reside there?—In March 1857, when I bought Mr. Wright's sheep and took possession of the farm.

6057. You have been there since 1857, have you?—Yes.

6058. Are you at all acquainted with the habits of the people during the last year?—Some of them.

6059. Do you consider them to be in a state of destitution?—I do not.

6060. If the country is described as being very poor in appearance, do you believe that that poverty arises from the habits of the people, or from their necessities?—I think that the appearance of poverty arises from the habits of the people.

6061. Do you consider them well off in point of food and ordinary comforts, if their habits were more cleanly?—I do.

6062. Were you there last winter?—I was.

6063. From what you observed of the people, do you think they suffered from want of food?—I do not.

6064. Had they the appearance of persons that were destitute for want of food?—They had not.

6065. Do you give employment to many people there?—I do.

6066. In what way?—In fencing and ditching.

6067. What rate of wages do you give them?—I contract with them.

6068. How much a day by the contracts which you make with them do you think an able-bodied man can earn?—From 2*s.* to 3*s.* a day.

6069. Have any of those people ever refused to work for you this year?—Yes, when they have other work to do of their own.

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6070. From what you have seen there, do you think that the men could get employment if they chose?—If they chose to work for fair wages I would employ plenty of them.

6071. Lord *Naas.*] Have you done any surface-draining on the mountains?—I began it before the sheep destruction began, and then I left it off; I have not begun it since.

6072. Do you find surface-draining of use?—Of great use.

6073. Do you think that surface-draining carried on on those mountains, as in Northumberland, would increase their value?—It would double the value of the mountains.

6074. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do you observe any difference in the clothes of the people, between those who are well off and have cattle, and those who are of the poorest class?—I do not.

6075. They are dressed pretty much alike?—Pretty much the same.

6076. Do you recollect the relief that was given in that district this spring?—I do.

6077. For what purpose do you believe that relief was given?—I believe it was given them for the purpose of remunerating them as far as they paid the sheep tax.

6078. Do you believe it was given to those who had been charged the sheep tax?—Yes.

6079. And not to others?—My shepherd tells me that it has been given to all the people lately, those who paid the tax, and those who did not pay the tax.

6080. What is your reason for thinking that this relief was given for the purpose of paying that tax?—Because I know parties that were well off who got relief, and who did not require it at all.

6081. Had those parties paid the tax?—Yes, those parties had paid the tax.

6082. Do you know a townland called Meenagoppa?—Yes; it just lies between two of my mountains.

6083. Do you know the people who got relief there?—Yes, well.

6084. Will you name one of them?—One of them was named Ned Gallagher, another Tague Gallagher, and another Hugh Roarty.

6085. Did they require relief?—Not at all.

6086. Had they paid the tax?—They did pay the tax.

6087. Can you state the stock that any of those men had?—Yes, from my own knowledge.

6088. Take the first man you mentioned, Ned Gallagher?—He has 12 head of cattle, two horses, and about 40 sheep.

6089. Take the second man, Tague Gallagher, what stock has he?—He has 26 or 28 cattle, and he has 60 sheep and two horses; and Hugh Roarty has 23 head of cattle and two horses; I do not know the number of sheep he has, but he has sheep.

6090. Lord *Naas.*] Are you sure that those people got relief?—I am sure of it; they have told me themselves, and I have their sons working for me, ditching.

6091. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Did they say how much they got?—They did not.

6092. Do you know a man named Daniel Coll, of Magheraclogher?—I do.

6093. Have you bought potatoes of him at any time?—I have.

6094. What did you pay?—I paid 2 *s.* a cwt., and for half a ton I paid 1 *l.*

6095. When was that?—It was in February.

6096. Did you enter into any agreement with him as to purchasing potatoes for yourself and shepherds?—Yes; he told me he could supply the shepherds and me with potatoes at the same price.

6097. Did he do so?—No. After this Committee was appointed he sent word to my shepherd that he could give me no more potatoes.

6098. Do you recollect when that was?—It was just at the time when I first saw it in the papers; some time about the first week in May.

6099. Has there been any attempt made to make you leave the country in the same way that Mr. Wright and Mr. Huggup did?—Only by the destruction of my sheep.

6100. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Does the destruction of your sheep continue?—It continued till April this year.

6101. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You know the mountain district there; do you know whether that is occupied by the tenants' cattle on those estates of Mr. Olphert, Lord George Hill, and Mr. Woodhouse's?—I do not know about Mr. Woodhouse's.

6102. Do you know about Lord George Hill's and Mr. Olphert's?—I do.

6103. Do

6103. Do you know the stock they have on those mountains?—I do not know the exact number of stock they have on the mountains.

6104. Can you form an opinion, from what you have seen on the mountains, as to whether they have sufficient quantity of land for their stock?—They have far more mountains than they have cattle for.

6105. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Are they more than stocked?—I do not think they are half stocked.

6106. Lord *Naas.*] Whose mountains are you alluding to?—I am alluding to Lord George Hill's and Mr. Olphert's.

6107. Have you walked over those mountains?—I have many times, and I know them well.

6108. From your experience of mountain farming, and from the appearance of the mountain, you think that there is not sufficient stock on it, and that it would keep more stock than there is on it at present?—I do.

6109. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Have you got any return or account of the presentment that was made for the malicious destruction of sheep?—I have not it with me, but I know what it is.

6110. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] With regard to those few tenants that you spoke of as having a large stock of cattle, and getting relief, whose tenants were they?—Mr. Stewart's tenants, of Horne Head.

6111. It was never alleged that he took any mountain from his tenants?—It was not; not that I know of.

6112. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] You say you lost 600 sheep altogether; how many of your sheep were found in the bog-holes?—I do not know, but a large quantity of them, including heads, and parts of bodies, and such like, were found.

6113. When you saw the heads, were these the heads belonging to the bodies that you had found, or were they the heads of other sheep; can you tell that?—I do not know, but they were not together.

6114. How far off were the carcasses found from where the heads were found?—There were some of them on different mountains altogether.

6115. Lord *Naas.*] Were you present at the finding of any of those sheep?—I was. I was not present at the finding of any of those sheep that were taken last February and March; I was in England at the time; but sheep have been maliciously destroyed since that.

6116. When were you present at the finding of some of those mangled carcasses?—This winter.

6117. Who was it that found those sheep last February 12 months?—It was the police of the district.

6118. Was it Head Constable Young and the police under his direction?—The police, under the direction of the head constable.

6119. Did you lose any sheep during last summer?—I did.

6120. You say that the first destruction of your sheep began in February 1857?—Yes.

6121. Has it continued up to last April?—It has continued up to last April; sometimes a month or two there have been none taken, and then they have begun again.

6122. Still that has been continued from time to time, from February 1857 to April 1858?—Yes. I lost no sheep from last April until August.

6123. You lost sheep in August, did you?—Yes.

6124. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] Have the sheep that you lost in April 1858 been found?—Part of the remains of them were found; heads and carcasses, and such as that.

6125. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] The remains of how many sheep did you find altogether?—I do not know.

6126. Were there 50 or 100?—I would think that there would be the remains of nearly 50 of mine found altogether.

6127. How many sheep did you put on in July 1856?—Seven hundred and twenty-five.

6128. How many of those did you lose between July and February?—I think I lost 12; that was before the destruction came on.

6129. They were not destroyed, you think?—They were all found; the sheep always are found when they die on the mountain.

6130. You say you lost those 12; did you find them?—Yes, we found them dead;

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dead; I mean there were 12 died during that time; they died from natural causes.

6131. You found the bodies?—Yes, I found the bodies; the shepherds gave me the skins of them.

6132. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Can you state anything that happened to a ram of your flock?—Yes.

6133. What was it?—I got him with string tied round his testicles, to prevent him from getting lambs.

6134. You found that yourself?—I found that myself.

6135. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] When was that?—It was last autumn.

6136. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Did you find any in the lake?—The police found some heads in the lake, and I went and identified them afterwards.

6137. Did you find any with their feet tied together in the lake?—Yes; I had been round a month after buying Mr. Wright's sheep, and I found five or six with their legs tied together in one bog-hole.

6138. *Chairman.*] Was any part of those sheep carried away, or was the sheep whole?—The five sheep were whole, with their legs tied together; but there was part of their bodies decomposed.

6139. Do you believe that those were the sheep that you purchased?—They were not; they were not mine at all.

6140. In point of fact, with regard to your own sheep, the only injury that you have known caused to any sheep was in the case of the ram; that is to say, you found the ram's testicles tied?—Yes.

6141. You did not find any other carcass of your own sheep whole?—Yes; I found one with its ribs broken in.

6142. Was it dead?—It was scarcely dead; Head Constable Young was along with me, and some policemen, when I found it; I found one of them dead, with its head cut off; the head was taken away, and the carcass was left.

6143. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was not that the only evidence you had, the testicles being tied in one case and the ribs broken in in the other, with regard to the 32 sheep for which you got compensation last assizes?—No, it was not; I got two sheep come back that were taken away; and they came back, both with the wool plucked off and one with the horns broken off.

6144. That was the evidence that you had with regard to the 32?—It was.

6145. What did you get for the 32; what compensation were you allowed?—I have not got anything.

6146. What were they presented for?—Thirty shillings each.

6147. How long were they in your possession?—They were in my possession about two months.

6148. How much did you buy them for?—They were ewes, and I bought lambs with them, and paid 16*s.* each for them, lambs and ewes together; the lambs were not worth more than 10*s.*

6149. Were they presented for that?—I did not present the lambs at all.

6150. How many of the 207 sheep that you applied for on the 27th of May last were proved to have been injured?—I cannot say.

6151. What evidence have you that those 207 were maliciously destroyed?—I have evidence that we found part of the heads and some of the carcasses.

6152. How many?—I do not know exactly.

6153. Did you find more than five?—I did find more than five.

6154. How many did you find?—I do not know.

6155. In reference to the 111 sheep that were on Alton and Ballinas mountain, is it a fact that those on Ballinas were never counted by the shepherds from December the 26th to the 15th of the following February?—It is not the fact; the Ballinas sheep were counted three or four times in that period.

6156. Who counted them?—M'Ginlay counted them.

6157. What is the name of the shepherd on Ballinas?—M'Ginlay.

6158. Was he produced at the sessions?—He was not.

6159. Do not you think it is rather necessary to produce the man who did count them, and who ought to have known best the number you had at the time?—I have been at the mountain every week myself; I go among the sheep regularly every week.

6160. Who was produced at the sessions with regard to Ballinas?—Lillicoe himself; he is the head shepherd, and he has the management over the other shepherds.

6161. Had

6161. Had he taken an account from December to February?—I do not think he had.

6162. Was it his evidence that he had not counted them?—Yes.

6163. You did not bring before the sessions the man who could alone speak as to the number?—I had not M'Ginlay there.

6164. Was there any trace of the remains of those sheep found off Ballinas?—Yes.

6165. What was found of them?—There were only two heads found of them.

6166. Was there a prosecution last assizes against a man named Doherty?—There was.

6167. For what?—For having sheep in his possession knowing them to be stolen.

6168. Had any person got compensation for those sheep?—I do not know.

6169. Did you hear that sworn in evidence?—I did not.

6170. Were you in the court-house at the time?—I was.

6171. Did you hear it sworn in evidence that Mr. Wright had got compensation for those sheep?—I did not.

6172. Did Sillicoe ever tell you that Mr. Wright got compensation for those sheep?—He never did.

6173. Do you state that the Gweedore people destroyed your sheep?—I do not know who destroyed them, but they have been destroyed.

6174. Are not you living on pretty good terms with the Gweedore people, and are they not friendly to you?—I do not know whether they are friendly or not.

6175. Are they unfriendly with you?—They have never said anything uncivil to me.

6176. You say that you have 6,000 acres of mountain in your possession?—I think I have.

6177. Are you now in legal possession of Keeldrum mountain?—I have not Keeldrum mountain.

6178. I thought you said that you had that mountain?—That was the first mountain that I took, but when the sheep-killing took place, I left that mountain.

6179. Who has that mountain now?—Mr. Olphert.

6180. Who did you say had those 6,000 acres of mountain?—Mr. Wright had Alton, and Mr. Huggup had Lord George Hill's mountains before, and two men of the names of M'Fadden and Sweeny had Mr. Olphert's mountains, and Mr. Olphert bought M'Fadden out, and the other man, Sweeny, had his option whether he would remain as a shepherd or not.

6181. How many acres had Sweeny?—I think he had about 1,000 acres; about half the mountain.

6182. A great proportion of those 6,000 acres were in the hands of the tenantry before, and they were allowed to have their cattle over them, were they not?—They were taken separately; they were quite distinct cases altogether.

6183. At any rate, you say that you have 6,000 acres in your own possession?—Yes.

6184. Is it by the perch that you employ people in the contract work?—Yes.

6185. What do you pay a perch?—Fourteen-pence a perch.

6186. Is that what they contract for with you, and do they let it out to others? They can do as they choose; there are four that have taken it, and some let it out, and some do it themselves.

6187. Did you ever pay from 2 *s.* to 3 *s.* to any one man for his work in a day?—Yes, I have.

6188. To any one man for work that that man himself did?—I have. I should mention that I was clipping sheep, and I was giving them meat besides; I never employ any man by day work.

6189. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] What is the greatest amount of money that you ever knew a man in that district to earn by perch work in a day?—I made a fence last year, and the same kind of fencing was let last year for 9 *d.* a perch. I gave the man all that he asked of me, and he told me that he made seven perches a day; that man is Hugh M'Fadden.

6190. What was the height of it?—It was a single ditch.

6191. What was the height of it?—It was I suppose about 4½ feet high.

6192. How many perches did he do?—Seven perches in one day.

6193. Mr. *Dobbs.*] At 9 *d.* a perch?—Yes; I have always given the men the wages they asked.

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6194. What did they ask in this year for a perch?—They would not do it for less than 14 *d.*

6195. Have you given that?—Yes, and I have paid 50 *l.* at 14 *d.* a perch.

6196. Mr. *Maguire.*] What was the width of this extraordinary fence or ditch?—I suppose it was about three feet at the bottom and about a foot at the top.

6197. Do you mean that that man did that number of perches in a ditch of that width himself?—Yes, he did, and he has had no assistance whatever.

6198. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Was it boggy land?—Yes, boggy soft land; you have only to put a spade in, and lift it up.

6199. Mr. *Maguire.*] How many do you give that employment to?—I let it to four contractors; but I think sometimes there were 30 men at work.

6200. What is the average rate of wages that those men earn who are employed under the contractors?—I do not know.

6201. Do they earn 1 *s.* a day?—They would not work at it for less.

6202. What is the rate of wages in the district?—I have never given less than 1 *s.* a day.

6203. What is the rate of wages in the district?—I believe 10 *d.* a day is the rate.

6204. Do you mean to say that they earn more than 1 *s.* a day under the contractors?—Yes, they do.

6205. How many of those men now earn 1 *s.* a day under the contractors?—All the men who are employed upon it, except boys.

6206. Do they earn more than 1 *s.* there?—Yes, more than 1 *s.*

6207. Are you positive of that?—Yes, I am positive of it.

6208. The average rate of wages, you say, in the district is 10 *d.*?—Yes; but they will not work for me for 10 *d.*

6209. With regard to the tenantry of whom you speak, of Meenagoppa, had not those people the mountains?—They had, but they had no mountains scarcely.

6210. Have they had no mountains taken from them?—No.

6211. Are they generally in better circumstances than the other tenantry?—They were not in such good circumstances as some of Mr. Olphert's tenants.

6212. Do those men graze the cattle of other people?—One of them does.

6213. Does not more than one?—No; I am positive of it; I see the people regularly every week.

6214. Who is it that takes in the cattle of other people?—Ned Gallagher.

6215. Is not that the man that you represent as having a large amount of cattle?—No, he has 12 cattle; it is Tague Gallagher that has the largest amount of cattle.

6216. With regard to Ned Gallagher, are you certain that those 12 are all his own?—Yes, I am positive of it.

6217. Are you positive that he has none from other persons?—Ned Gallagher has 60 on his mountain altogether, his own and others.

6218. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] On what mountain does he graze?—They call it Meenagoppa mountain.

6219. Mr. *Maguire.*] Were the people of Meenagoppa served with notice to quit this year?—I do not know; it may be so, but I do not know.

6220. Have you gone into many of the houses of the people?—A good many. I have bought a good many cattle in the district.

6221. Have you examined the houses?—I have not. I have been in their houses when I have bought the cattle, that is all.

Mercurii, 23° die Junii, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bagwell.
Sir J. Yarde Buller.
Mr. Serjeant Deasy.
Mr. Dobbs.
Sir Edmund Hayes.
Mr. Maguire.
Mr. P. Wykeham Martin.
Lord Naas.
Sir William Somerville.

JOHN BAGWELL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

John Obins Woodhouse, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

J. O. Woodhouse, Esq.

23 June 1858.

6222. Mr. *Maguire.*] YOU stated yesterday that you were offered 500 *l.* for the rent of Tory Island, by some person or other?—By Mr. Downey.

6223. When was that?—In 1845.

6224. Did you write to Mr. Donaghy, of Park-place, Glasgow, on the 23d of January 1856?—I do not recollect, but I may have done so.

6225. Did you write to that gentleman in 1856, in reference to the purchase of Tory Island?—I may have done so, but I do not recollect it; I simply remember the name of Mr. Donaghy in connexion with kelp.

6226. Did you in that year, 1856, offer to sell this Tory Island to that gentleman?—It is exceedingly likely, for I was annoyed at that time, and would have been but too glad to get rid of it.

6227. What was the nature of your offer?—I do not recollect.

6228. Did you offer to give up the island, minus the tenantry?—I have frequently attempted both to let and sell it, on account of the annoyance with the tenants, but not minus the tenantry.

George Frazer Brady, Esq., Examined.

G. F. Brady, Esq.

6229. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] ARE you a Surgeon?—I am.

6230. Where do you live?—At Falcarragh, in the district of Cloughaneely.

6231. Have you been in that district for some time?—I have lived there for the last three or four years, I think; I cannot say exactly.

6232. How long have you had the Gweedore district under your charge?—For the last 16 years; between 16 and 17; this will be the 17th year when it is completed.

6233. Are you intimately acquainted with the people?—I am.

6234. And with their customs and habits?—Yes.

6235. From what you know of the people in that district, are you prepared to state whether destitution exists there or not?—There is no destitution.

6236. How do you come to that conclusion?—I am every day through the district, and I see the people, and the poorest of them come to me at the dispensary, and no cases of sickness likely to be caused by want of proper food have presented themselves to me as the medical attendant of the dispensary.

6237. Is it possible that there could be destitution to any extent in the district without your knowledge?—I should say not.

6238.—There is no sickness arising from what you might expect it would arise, namely, from want of food and clothing?—Certainly not.

6239. After the appeal to the public was made, signed by the Roman-catholic clergy, was your attention in particular directed to this subject?—It was.

6240. Did you take any steps then specially with regard to the matter?—

G. F. Brady, Esq.

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There was one part of the appeal which stated that the men were without shirts and the women without shifts; and as often as I possibly could do it, without outraging the feelings of the parties, I have examined the patients coming to my dispensary, and in no one instance have I found a want of inside clothing.

6241. With regard to their bed clothes, have you paid particular attention to that?—Yes. With regard to bed clothes, I am in the habit of visiting the people, and out of an average attendance of 800, I could tell the Committee the amount of the people's houses I visited in the year, if they think it necessary. In the year 1857, ending the 1st of January this year, I had visited 145 persons' houses.

6242. From the nature of your visits, being professional, you have had ample opportunity of judging of the state of their clothes and bed clothes?—Yes.

6243. Sir *William Somerville.*] Did you visit the people within those two districts?—Yes, within those two districts.

6244. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Can you state positively that the condition of their clothes and bed clothes is not worse than it usually has been since you have known the neighbourhood?—Certainly not worse.

6245. Were you there during the years of famine?—I was there during the entire famine.

6246. Was there much difference between the appearance of the people at that time and the present?—There was not very much difference in their bed clothes or bedding.

6247. Was there much difference in their appearance?—Yes. At the time of the famine the general appearance of the people was like people starving, and the diseases were those that arose from want of food.

6248. You can produce returns of the patients in the years of famine, can you not?—I can.

6249. Will you state in round numbers what they amount to?—If you will allow me, I will explain these returns to the Committee, otherwise if I hand them in they will not understand them. Previously to 1853 my dispensary district was different from what it is at present. When the change in the law was made, my district was altered, and then the Cloughaneely district was added to the Gweedore district, and the Rosses, part of my district, struck off, so that the returns of the famine apply to the district of the Rutland dispensary.

6250. Is the portion that is added now to your district at all equivalent to what has been taken from it?—I do not think it is quite so much.

6251. But the district of Gweedore was in your district at one time, was it not?—Yes. I can only speak generally with regard to the number of applicants who presented themselves to me at that time at the dispensary, because then they came in crowds, and not half of them were entered in the books. I was a member of two relief committees at the time, and my time was occupied going a distance of 12 miles to those relief committees in order to select persons the most destitute in the district, along with other gentlemen acting on those committees.

6252. Amongst the poorest do you find that they generally had blankets?—Yes.

6253. You seldom find a case where they have not blankets?—Certainly not; a case may now and then occur, which I cannot bring to my recollection, but the general rule is that they have blankets.

6254. What is the bed generally composed of?—The bed is a very inferior description of bed; it is generally straw in the poorer houses, with a sheet thrown over it; sometimes it is on the ground, sometimes it is a four-posted bed, with sticks across, and the straw raised from the ground on these sticks, and it is covered sometimes with a coarse description of sheet.

6255. Does this description apply to the years previous to 1853, as well as at present?—Yes, as long as I recollect, as well as the present year.

6256. You are a farmer yourself, are you not?—Yes, but I have only a very small farm of 20 acres.

6257. What is your opinion as to the crop last year?—I had a good crop myself, although my neighbours said that I had the worst crop of potatoes in the district.

6258. From your knowledge of the district, what is your opinion as to the state of the crop?—I think it was a very good crop; I have heard from two or three in the district that they have not very many potatoes, but, speaking generally, the crops

crops of potatoes were good, and there are plenty of potatoes in the district at present.

6259. Do you know how they are selling at present?—I sold some myself a few days before I left home, and I got 3 *s.* for eight stone, called a measure in Ireland.

6260. As you occupy land yourself, you know something of the rate of wages, do you not?—I do.

6261. Is the rate of wages at present lower than you have hitherto known it, or higher?—I think it is rather higher. In former years I could get girls to work at weeding turnips, and picking stones off the land, at 4 *d.* a day, and this year I have paid 6 *d.* a day. Some have refused to work, but I had some children working for me at 4 *d.* a day when I left home.

6262. Speaking generally, the rate of wages has rather increased than diminished?—Yes. I have one man whom I constantly employ, and I give him 10 *d.* a day the entire year round, whether it is wet or dry; and to the other persons this year that I have employed I have given 1 *s.* a day, whereas hitherto I have got them for 10 *d.*

6263. There has been a good deal of evidence before this Committee respecting sea-weed; from your knowledge of the habits of the people, what can you state to the Committee respecting the use of it?—I think they all eat sea-weed in a certain way; it is very frequently sold at fairs; I have seldom seen a fair without creels full for sale; I have often eaten it myself, and it is brought inland several miles as a sort of treat, and the country people consider it and eat it as such. This which I am referring to is the dry sea-weed, and it is eaten raw, and it is called dilosk. With regard to another description of sea-weed, which is called sloake, the people along the shore use it very frequently. There is another description which I have seen mentioned with regard to these proceedings as dolamaun. I never, previous to this statement being brought before the public, considered that the people in that part of the district used dolamaun; it was never brought much under my observation; I know that it has been eaten; I have seen it cooked occasionally in the houses along the shore, but it seemed to me to be seldom used, and merely to kitchen their potatoes; they took it with their potatoes.

6264. Do you consider that the use of it has very materially increased this year?—I should say not, as far as my knowledge of the people is concerned. I have heard that it has been generally reported, and, to tell the truth, the most I know of it is from the reports which I have seen in the newspapers.

6265. From your medical knowledge, do you consider it an unwholesome food?—No; in small quantities I do not consider it an unwholesome food, I rather consider it the reverse; I consider it a nutritious food; and from late analyses that have been made, and which I have made myself acquainted with, I find that there is a great deal of nutriment in the sea-weed. This dolamaun is, I believe, known as sweet sea-weed; it is called the *fucus vesiculosus* and it has been analysed by, I believe, Doctor Davy in England, and he has written an analysis of it. I have also sundry analyses here by different people, and observations extracted from different works, which, if the Committee wish, I will read to them. I often prescribe sea-weed to my better order of patients, the gentry; I frequently have prescribed sloake and boiled dilosk as a medicine.

6266. When you hear of 800 families subsisting on sea-weed, according to your knowledge that statement is entirely without foundation?—I should say not subsisting; I say distinctly "No" to that.

6267. Or using it to prolong their food?—I think not; to prolong, means to make it go further, and I think it is merely eaten as a sort of condiment, or kitchen, to their food; that is my opinion, and has always been so.

6268. You are connected with Mrs. Russell, are you not?—I am married to a daughter of hers.

6269. Is there anything you wish to state as to some evidence which has been given with regard to Mrs. Russell's property?—There has been a statement made here with regard to what has been offered by Mr. Underwood for that property; he has said, and in a petition that appeared before the House of Commons it was stated, that the late Mr. Russell had bought that property for a few hundred pounds; I can state that, instead of a few hundred pounds, it was a few thousand

pounds, because he gave 6,500*l.* for it; and since that, Mr. Russell during his lifetime expended on that property, in improvements, in cottages for the poor people on the waste land that he was letting out to them, in draining, making roads, and making offices suitable for the place, 2,000*l.*, and since his death there has been expended upon that place, to my own knowledge, the sum of upwards of 1,300*l.*, because I paid a proportion of it myself, and I know it to be the case; at least my wife paid it.

6270. You were resident there during the famine years, were you not?—I was in charge of the district.

6271. You were a member of the relief committee?—I was a member of two relief committees.

6272. Was Lord George Hill in the country at that time?—He was; nearly the entire of that winter of 1846 and 1847 he spent there; I then resided at the Gweedore Hotel, and Lord George Hill, nearly the entire of the winter, resided there, striving to do all he could for the poor; I have known him to sit up to two or three o'clock in the morning revising lists, selecting the most destitute, and consulting me as to who I thought were the fittest people to receive relief; his exertions were beyond measure praiseworthy, and every one at the time remarked them as such; I knew him more, perhaps, than any other individual, because I lived, in fact, with him during nearly that entire winter when he was at the Gweedore Hotel.

6273. From what you know of Lord George Hill's conduct since he went to that country, describing him as an exterminator of the people is a gross libel, in your opinion?—Certainly it is.

6274. Mr. *Maguire.*] What evidence is that?—Mr. Williams, I think, mentioned that Lord George Hill was an exterminator.

6275. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Are you personally acquainted with any transactions connected with the mountains?—Yes, I understand altogether the transactions with regard to the Dunlewey mountains, Mrs. Russell's mountains.

6276. Has Mrs. Russell deprived the people within the last two years of any mountains they had previously a right to?—Will the Committee allow me to explain: when Mr. Russell bought this property the rents were not, I think, more than 100*l.* a year, if so much; he then considered, and all parties considered, that this rent was merely paid for the arable land held by the tenants, with the exception of the town of Loughkiel; that is a sub-denomination of Crawley; he considered that all the mountains belonged to himself, and so did everybody else.

6277. Lord *Naas.*] When did Mr. Russell buy this property?—I think it was in the year 1845; I am not quite sure whether it was 1844 or 1845. He then immediately, or a very few months after, went to reside at Dunlewey, set to work to reclaim a plot of land, I think about 189 acres. He drained a good deal of it; he built cottages on it; he divided it into farms; and ever since he has been in undisputed possession of this mountain, with one exception; that he never prevented the tenants' cattle grazing upon that part which was unoccupied; but every two or three years, a tenant has been put upon a different portion of it. Immediately before this Committee was ordered by the House there was a plot of ground marked out by my directions without any opposition on the part of the tenants; but as soon as this Committee was ordered a feeling got up on the part of the people that this did not belong to Mrs. Russell. I went the other day, I am not quite sure as to the date, but I went to mark off two other farms for two men who were anxious to take them; one was a son of a tenant of Mrs. Russell's, and her own herd mountain, who had married a servant in her own house, who was also the daughter of a tenant; the other was a person from the neighbourhood of Cross-roads; but as soon as the parties went on the ground and attempted to make the lock spittings, they were immediately turned off; as soon as the sod was cut out it was lifted back into the mark again.

6278. By whom was that done?—By the people of that townland, who came with violence and a very great noise, and said that the mountain belonged to them, and they would not give it up; that they had always grazed it, and it was theirs, and they were legally informed, I think they told me, that they could hold possession of it in opposition to Mrs. Russell.

6279. Was this the first time that opposition was made?—Yes. The people themselves of the townland made those lock spittings in Mr. Russell's lifetime.

6280. How long is it since the last place was marked off before this occurred;

was any marked off last year?—I do not think it is more than a few months since it was marked off.

6281. I mean the last portion, before this portion to which you have just alluded?—Yes, within the last few months.

6282. Was any opposition made to that?—Not the least, that I heard of, and the man is living and enjoying it now undisturbed.

6283. Was any complaint made by the people then that you heard of?—None.

6284. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Have you any knowledge of the mode in which this relief fund was distributed?—I have a return here. I have looked over a copy of Mr. Doherty's book, which was handed in here as evidence, and I have paid particular attention to each individual of Mrs. Russell's tenants who was on that relief list. Mrs. Russell's tenants, I know them all individually, and I can state to the Committee the circumstances of each person, if they wish me to go through the list.

6285. I will ask you the names of a few as a sample. Take 327, Hugh Roarty; did he receive any relief, and what are his circumstances?—I know Hugh Roarty; he has one horse, four cows, and ten sheep.

6286. Did he receive relief?—Yes.

6287. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] What relief did he receive?—I cannot state without seeing Mr. Doherty's book. The list which I have in my hand was made out previously to my seeing Mr. Doherty's book, from information that I collected myself in the country; this was made out on the 6th of May, and I have it down that he received up to that time 10 *s.* of relief; but I recollect now that in Mr. Doherty's list there was a blanket, and the reason I recollect that is, that there were very peculiar circumstances attending my visit to Hugh Roarty's house to inquire into his state.

6288. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Will you state what those circumstances were?—I went into his house; he was out on his farm, and in fact there was nobody in his house but a child; his door was lying open, and I walked in. I examined the bed, and it appeared to me a very bad bed; indeed not the bed that I was in the habit of seeing in the house, because I had been in that house before, and I knew the circumstances of the man. On the bed was a most wretched bed covering. I am not quite positive of it, but I think he had a bed in a tick. I wanted to ascertain whether the man had any potatoes, and I put my stick under the bed, and I felt potatoes, and I thought I felt something very soft as well, and I put in my hand and I pulled out two very good blankets. I beg to state, in reference to those blankets, that they were not shop blankets; they were home manufactured.

6289. Lord *Naas.*] They could not, you think, have been blankets given by the Relief Committee?—I should say certainly not.

6290. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] With regard to a man of the name of Arthur O'Donnell, No. 330, what amount of stock had he?—He has one horse, five cows, and twelve sheep; he is a road contractor, and he has a cart; I see him constantly at work on the roads.

6291. Did you visit his house, and what did you find in his house?—I did visit his house, and I have the observations that I made in the house of each individual as I went along. He had three beds with bedding, and potatoes in a sack. My idea of the potatoes in the sack was this, that they were there ready to be carried off; they were on a chair to be carried away; because my impression all through is, that the people have been making themselves appear as poor as possible to any persons going through the country. He is a shopkeeper, and there were potatoes in the house in a sack.

6292. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] What does he deal in?—He is what they call a huxter, and he buys eggs, and he brings them to the neighbouring markets, and he deals in tea and sugar in a very small way; he takes or sends a cart to Letterkenny for goods now and then.

6293. Will you refer to No. 704, Paddy Conaghan, and state what his circumstances are?—Paddy Conaghan lives in the townland of Moneybeg, and he has one horse, six cows, and ten sheep, and two of his family are employed by Mrs. Russell.

6294. Before you leave him will you tell the Committee the state of his house, as to clothing, or bedding, or anything of that sort?—I will read the remarks that I made at the time: "Although there was scarcely any bed clothing on the beds,

there were sundry pairs of blankets, quilts, and wearing apparel hid under oats," which were on a table in the room; there were also oats in sacks in his house.

6295. This man was on the relief list as having received part of the fund, was he?—He is 704 on the Rev. Mr. Doherty's book; he is very well off indeed. I always considered him rather better off than a great many of his neighbours, because I have often met him going to chapel on Sunday, and the man was always well clad.

6296. Will you look at No. 705, Collum Roarty?—Will you allow me, before mentioning Collum Roarty, to explain with regard to him. I went to this townland between seven and eight o'clock in the morning. I had told the bailiff the night before, that I would go to the townland at breakfast time next day to examine the houses; and fearing that it might get about that I was going to examine the houses, I thought it better to go early in the morning, instead of the time I had appointed. He lives about a mile from Mrs. Russell's house, and I walked down at seven in the morning, accompanied by Mrs. Russell's land steward and her bailiff, who accompanied me all through my visits to those houses, and on the road I met four head of cattle being driven by the brother of Mrs. Russell's herd on to the mountain. She is in the habit of taking grazers on her mountain, and I said, "Who do those cattle belong to"? and he said, "They belong to a Rosses man." I did not know to whom they belonged, and I said, "Are you quite sure of that? I think I know that bull;" and he said they certainly belong to a Rosses man, and he went on. Mrs. Russell's steward met the boy afterwards, and ascertained that those cattle, instead of belonging to the Rosses people, belonged to those people in the townland that I was going to visit, and that they were being driven off the townland. Then, the first house that I visited was Collum Roarty's house, and in that house I found good beds and bedding, several sacks of oats, meal, and potatoes, and they said that they had got about 7 *s.* worth of clothes from the relief. I think what they said was, "from the priest;" I think those were the words used.

6297. I will only trouble you with one more, Neal Roarty, No. 706; what are his circumstances?—He has good beds and bedding, potatoes, meal, and oats, and is very well clad, and a sheep or a goat, lately killed, was hanging up, just ready for use.

6298. Is it your belief that this fund was given in instances such as those, not to relieve destitution, but to compensate them for the sheep-tax?—It is the general opinion of every one, as well as myself, in that part of the country.

6299. Lord *Naas*.] Why do you say it is the general opinion of people?—I am in the habit of speaking to them, and several are dissatisfied with the manner in which the relief has been distributed; one or two have told me that they were refused relief because they had not paid the sheep-tax. I can give the names of one or two that told me that they had been refused.

6300. Sir *Edmund Hayes*] Will you state any other circumstance which you wish to bring before the Committee?—Walking along the road on the 29th of April, after seeing a patient in the townland of Derryreel, I overtook a poor woman, the wife and child of M'Cue, of Dunmore. I entered into conversation with her; she said she was very poor, and that her husband was very poor, and that they had a large family, and they entirely subsisted by what charitable people gave them; she said she had been desired to go to Derrybeg on a certain day (I forget the day) to receive relief. It was in the very snowy weather, if you recollect, that we had in the spring, and she complained bitterly of the journey that she had taken. She had travelled, I think, a distance of 12 miles in the snow there, and 12 miles back; and she told me that all the relief she got was one biscuit between herself and her husband; and she said, too, since that day she had got no additional relief because she had not paid the sheep-tax.

6301. She told you that she was refused relief because she had not paid the tax?—She did.

6302. Did she mention who told her?—She did not; it was more a general observation.

6303. But she did not obtain relief?—She did not obtain relief; she told me that up to that day, the 29th of April, she had not received relief, and I asked her two or three times, and she repeated it more than once.

6304. Are there any other cases that you would wish to mention?—There is a man of the name of Neal M'Gee, of Dunmore, a labouring man, who collects eggs through the country, and tries to support himself as best he can; I believe he has no land, and he told me that he had gone on the same day to get relief; he

was

was working for me in my garden, digging, when he told me this, and he said that he had gone to Derrybeg on this day mentioned by the woman, and that all he had got was one biscuit for himself and another for his wife, and I told him he was very much better off than the M'Cues, because they had only one biscuit between them.

6305. Do you know any cases where relief was offered to those who would not take it?—I know of one case; the man told me himself that he had been desired by persons distributing relief in his neighbourhood to go for a bundle of clothes, and he refused to go for them; his name is Butler.

6306. Lord *Naas.*] Had he paid the tax?—He had paid the tax for the police, not the sheep-tax; his name was Robert Butler, of Moneybeg. I think Robert is his Christian name.

6307. What did he tell you exactly?—He told me that a person distributing relief in his neighbourhood had sent him word that there was a bundle of clothes for him, and that if he would go for them he was entitled to them for having paid the tax, and he declined going for them.

6308. Is he pretty well off?—No, I should say he was not at all well off, considering other people; he is a stranger in that part of the country.

6309. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Who did he say was the person distributing relief?—A man of the name of M'Clafferty, who lives on the hill just above him.

6310. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] In the years of famine were you often applied to for relief yourself?—Frequently. There was scarcely a day that I was not followed by crowds of people soliciting my interference with the committee to get relief, and a great deal of money at that time passed through my hands. I was treasurer for a time of the soup-kitchens when they were first established, and to which all the landlords in the district subscribed.

6311. Does your recollection enable you to state that no one applied to you in the last few months for relief?—None but a few beggars in the country, who always ask relief occasionally, but nothing beyond that.

6312. No applications were made to you such as would be in a time of destitution?—None from destitution. In the famine of 1846 and 1847 I believe I was the first person who distributed relief in that district. I think it was a Mr. Foster, of Norwich, who gave me a ton of meal to distribute, which I distributed in this way: I sold it at a reasonable rate, and I lowered it till the money was expended altogether, and whenever any parties came into the district to inquire about the destitution, it was always to me they first came, as the medical officer of the district, and I had piles of letters from individuals at that time, which I could produce if the Committee wish it.

6313. What is your opinion generally of the effect upon the country of this agitation and inquiry?—I think it is most injurious; I think it unsettles the minds of the people, and it puts a stop to that friendly feeling which always existed up to within the last two years, ever since I have been in the district, between landlord and tenant; there has been a most friendly feeling between them at all times, and I think since this has occurred it has quite upset the people; their minds are unsettled, and they have very angry feelings towards those parties; and I do not think myself that the feelings of the landlords with regard to their tenants will be improved either.

6314. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Have the landlords of the district been generally kind to the tenants?—Certainly; I have frequently been made the almoner of Lord George Hill; he has repeatedly given me money to distribute to the people there, not only during the famine, but at many times since, and he has been always most particular, whenever he came to the country, in inquiring of me as to the state of the parties, or if I thought any of them wanted relief in any way, particularly when I lived at the Gweedore Hotel; since I left Gweedore that has not occurred so frequently. I think I ought to explain with regard to a case brought forward here, and which struck me as a very cruel thing to bring before the public, and that is the case of a man who was injured several years ago, so long ago that I have a very faint recollection of it. It is the case of a man of the name of Neal Doherty, who was blasting a rock at a well at the glebe house, which Lord George Hill had erected, I think it must be eleven years since; the match or something went wrong with it, and he went down into the pit, he and his partner, whom I know very well, a man of the name of Byrne, and they attempted to blow the match; the charge exploded at the time, and the man's eyes suffered very much. This man, Neal Doherty, was attended almost immediately

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by myself from the hotel, as the dispensary medical man of the district; and Lord George Hill, I know himself to have been very particular in his attention to that case; I cannot go into the particulars of it, because it is so long ago that the thing had quite escaped my memory; it was eleven years ago; and that man was sent, I know myself, to the Lifford Hospital on Lord George Hill's own conveyance, and I recollect myself recommending that some blankets should be got from the hotel to put about him when going to the hospital, and I got out the blankets from Lady Hill's hotel, and they were put round him, and he was sent to the hospital.

6315. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Do you know one Dennis O'Brien, in the townland of Derryconnell?—I have not been in the habit of visiting him; it is a general knowledge I have of all the district, with the exception of Mrs. Russell's district.

6316. This is stated in evidence by the Rev. James M'Fadden: "I visited the house of Dennis O'Brien on that occasion; his family consisted of ten, and there were five lying upon the cold damp earth, with nothing to save them from the wet bog below but a little litter of straw; there were five of them lying in the measles, with no provisions of any sort in the house." Do you know anything about that case?—I do not. In ordinary cases of measles they never apply to me, except when anything particular occurs. Measles and scarlatina were prevalent in the district not long ago. That is not an overdrawn picture with regard to the way in which they lie, because I have known them to lie on straw in a corner on the floor frequently, not only this year, but for several years. Their way of living is exceedingly uncomfortable.

6317. Lord *Naas.*] It is not more so this year than in years past, is it?—Certainly not, as far as my observation and practice as the medical man of the district has gone. I did not inquire particularly into any cases, except those on Mrs. Russell's property, but I thought it my duty to rebut the evidence which has been given here by going into those details.

6318. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Is there not more disease this year in the district than usual?—On referring to the returns in the dispensary, there is a very considerable decrease shown on the books.

6319. Do you know a woman called Bell M'Bride?—That is the woman who is referred to as having died in Ballinas, I think. I knew her to have been a very poor woman.

6320. Do you know anything about her death?—Nothing more than what I have heard; she was a woman of upwards of 80 years of age, and I know her daughter very well. Her daughter has been in the dispensary, and her grandchildren have been in the dispensary also, and I have seen her grandchildren on different occasions.

6321. On whose property did she live?—She lived on the property of Mr. Stewart, of Hornhead.

6322. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] How long is it since you left the Gweedore Hotel?—I left the Gweedore Hotel in the year 1850.

6323. Since that where have you lived?—I have resided at Heath Cottage, in the Gweedore district, upwards of three years, and I resided close to it for another year and a half, and when the change took place in 1853 I went to reside at Cross-roads, where I now live.

6324. Since 1853 you have resided at Cross-roads?—Yes.

6325. How far is that from Gweedore?—Bunseg is distant 14 miles by the road that I travel.

6326. Your dispensary district, as I understand, since 1853, includes Cloughaneely and Gweedore?—It does.

6327. You visited, I think you said, 145 persons in 1857?—Yes.

6328. Could you tell the Committee what is the population of your dispensary district?—No; not without referring to the Census.

6329. How many of them did you visit since the 1st of November?—I could not tell without referring.

6330. Lord *Naas.*] How often do you visit the dispensary?—Once a week.

6331. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Do they come to you at the dispensary?—Yes.

6332. You prescribe for them according to their diseases?—Yes.

6333. You cannot tell me how many out-door visits you pay?—Not in the different months; not since November, unless I had my register book.

6334. You could not tell me how many red tickets you had?—No.

6335. Did

6335. Did I rightly understand you to say that you prescribed dolamaun?—No; I said I prescribed sloake and boiled dilosk.

6336. I believe people who are not very ill often take sloake?—Very frequently.

6337. You would not object to take it yourself, would you?—No; I would be glad to have it every day.

6338. Is there much of that in the district?—No; I should say there is not a very great quantity of sloake, because I find it a difficult matter to get it sometimes.

6339. Is it not considered rather a delicacy?—It is.

6340. The sea-weed which you saw sold at the fair, is what is called dilosk?—Yes.

6341. And they take it in handfuls?—They do, and they eat it.

6342. Have you ever known dolamaun sold at fairs?—I have never seen it sold at fairs.

6343. Have you ever seen people eating it in that district?—I have.

6344. You have said something about a chemical analysis of sea-weed; did you mean a chemical analysis of what is called dolamaun?—Yes; what I know of dolamaun is, that it is what is called the sweet wrack.

6345. Do you mean the large coarse wrack?—There was a specimen of it here a few days ago, and if I saw it I could say whether it was dolamaun or not.

6346. Is it a very nutritious food?—I have had it boiled since all this work appeared in the papers, and I do not admire it at all myself (*The Witness examined some specimens of sea-weed*). In collecting the dolamaun the people take off the two points, which are very soft, and that is the portion they cook and eat.

6347. Lord *Naas*.] Do you imagine that anybody could eat that (*pointing to one of the specimens*)?—I do not think that they ever eat that; I never saw it cooked as food.

6348. Can they get plenty of that dolamaun from the shore?—Yes, they can get plenty at a particular season of the year, but at this season of the year a sort of spongy bladder forms upon the dolamaun, filled with a glutinous substance, and after that forms upon it I believe the people do not use it, because I have made particular inquiries about it.

6349. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] Of the 145 persons whom you visited in 1857 have you a distinct recollection of any of them?—If I had my register book I could have given the particulars of every individual.

6350. Will you tell the Committee now whether you saw any of them at their meals?—I recollect one case in the townland of Keeldrum.

6351. In what period of the year?—I think it was in the spring; I do not know the name, but I am quite sure that there is a gentleman here who could tell the individual.

6352. You stated, did you not, that their clothes were not worse than usual this year?—They are not worse, according to my general observation.

6353. Do you see them at mass on Sunday?—I have seen them every Sunday; I meet them going to and from chapel almost every Sunday.

6354. You mean the chapel near your residence?—Yes; the chapel near my residence, the chapel belonging to the district of Cloughaneely.

6355. Can you tell the Committee about how many townlands there are on Mrs. Russell's estate altogether?—Four townlands.

6356. It is a very extensive tract of country, is it not?—It is very extensive.

6357. How many of those townlands did you make this visitation of?—I made it on three townlands.

6358. How many houses did you go to altogether?—I went into 16 houses.

6359. How many families are there on those four townlands?—I can state the number in each townland; there are 13 on the townland of Baltoney Mountain.

6360. How many did you visit on that townland?—I visited two.

6361. Go on to the next townland?—There are nine in Dunlewey Near; I did not visit one on that townland, because I knew them all to be extremely well off and very rich people.

6362. Go on to the next townland?—In Moneybeg there are 16 families.

6363. How many did you visit there?—I visited six in Moneybeg.

6364. What is the next townland?—Crawley; there are 18 families in Crawley.

6365. How many did you inspect there?—Eight.

6366. You were, of course, very well acquainted with Mrs. Russell's tenants before?

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before?—Yes, I was tolerably well acquainted with them; I should say very well.

6367. Were you managing the property for your mother-in-law in any way?—The agent of the property has been in a very bad state of health within the last two years, and I have acted for him.

6368. You were, of course, acquainted with the state of the people?—Yes.

6369. The steward and the bailiff went with you, did they not?—They did.

6370. Was it you that selected the houses, or they?—I just took them as they came, one after another; I did not select them at all, I took them in rotation.

6371. You knew the tenants before that?—Yes, I knew the tenants; but it was stated that the people had no food, and I told the people, "I have come to see whether you have any food; it is reported in the newspapers that you are without food and without clothes, and Mrs. Russell is disgraced by the accounts that have appeared in the papers."

6372. Were they apprised beforehand that you intended to visit them?—I did not tell them beforehand.

6373. Lord *Naas*] What answer did they make when you told them that you heard that they were without food?—They said that they were poor; there was not one person that acknowledged himself to be well off.

6374. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] You stated, did you not, that the relief was distributed by some persons appointed by the committee?—Yes, so I have heard.

6375. It was from the agents that those people got the relief which they told you they had?—Yes; at least I believe so. It was through those agents.

6376. You have spoken of a bad feeling having grown up, which you were sorry to observe, between landlord and tenant?—I have; I see it in people's faces as I go along the road.

6377. When did that first begin, do you think?—I should say, as near as I can speak, it is within the last 18 months or two years.

6378. That is subsequent to the taking of those pastures and the raising of the rents?—Subsequently to that, certainly.

6379. Mr. *Maguire*.] You have been asked by Mr. Serjeant Deasy with reference to the tenants that you visited; did you visit the house of James M'Bride, one of the tenants of your mother-in-law?—I am sure that he is on my list; but James M'Bride was not visited by me.

6380. Do you know the condition of that man's circumstances; is that man gathering rags for support?—He is what is called a rag merchant; he is set down here as a rag merchant. He has a son and a daughter hired; and I have a list of observations which were made by Mrs. Russell's land steward, who knows all the people very well about there.

6381. When were those observations written?—On the 6th of May 1858.

6382. Will you read the observations about this rag merchant?—I see he is down as having three head of cattle and six sheep; and the observation made is, "In fair circumstances."

6383. Is the man who wrote this observation to be examined here?—Not that I am aware of.

6384. Do you know, of your own knowledge, that that man has in the world a four-footed animal?—Of my own knowledge, I do not know it.

6385. That observation is put down by the land steward on the 6th of May, after this Committee was appointed?—Yes.

6386. Do you know anything about a man named William Doherty, another tenant of your mother-in-law's?—Yes, I do.

6387. Did you go into his house lately?—Not very lately; I think it was nearly a year since; he had a child badly burnt, that I attended.

6388. Were you in his house this year?—Not to my knowledge.

6389. Were you in that man's house late last year?—I was in it last year.

6390. What were that man's circumstances at the beginning of this year or the end of last year?—William Doherty has been in constant employment with Mrs. Russell for years.

6391. How many in family has he?—I think he has not more than three or four in family.

6392. Are there seven in family?—There might be, but I do not think there are; the eldest boy is not very tall.

6393. Have you seen that man at work for Mrs. Russell?—Yes; I know that he is at work, because he was her stableman, and has been for some months, and

I see

I see him whenever I go to Dunlewey; he told me himself that he had received relief. *G. F. Brady*, Esq. 23 June 1858.

6394. Mr. *Maguire.*] Is that man employed throughout the year?—Yes.

6395. What wages does he have?—I think his wages latterly have been more than they were in former years, because he was taken into the stable, and I think, to the best of my knowledge, the wages have been 11*d.*, but the usual wages that he received were 10*d.*; the usual rate of wages at Dunlewey, with the exception of the herd and one or two others, is 10*d.*

6396. Do you know a man of the name of James Roarty, another tenant of your mother-in-law's?—I do.

6397. Did you visit that man's house?—I visited that man's house on the 11th of May.

6398. Will you describe to the Committee the stock that that tenant of your mother-in-law's has?—I believe the man has a cow; I am not quite sure. I will not state that as a positive fact.

6399. You do not know whether he has a cow or not?—I do not of my own personal knowledge; but on my list I have an observation, made by myself, with regard to this man from my own personal observation. The man is a very poor man; there is no doubt of that at all; he is the poorest man, and he is considered to be the lowest, in point of circumstances, on Mrs. Russell's property. My remark is, "He had no provisions in the house, although seen by Mrs. Russell's bailiff to bring home the day or so before three horse loads of potatoes" from the town of Glenthorney.

6400. For whom was he bringing those potatoes?—For himself, the bailiff told me that day.

6401. Did you make any inquiry about it of the man himself?—I did, and the man said that he had nothing. There was deception practised in this poor house; the straw was tumbled out of the bed; it was wispy straw, and it was tumbled out as if it had been taken out of a tick in the corner of the room; the bedstead was pulled to pieces, and the clothes of the woman that I saw in the house appeared as if they had been folded up, ready to be carried out of the house. I asked the woman if she had any shift, as it was reported that she had no shift, and she said she had one on her, and I looked in her box and I found that she had two clean ones in the box.

6402. What particular mark had that straw about it?—It was rolled up in wispy lumps, in which straw would be after being compressed in a tick.

6403. You are perfectly certain that that is the appearance which straw presents when taken out of a tick?—Yes.

6404. Did you ask where the tick was?—Yes, and where the blankets were also, and my impression was that no one could lie on the miserable coverlet that was there, and I made the most minute search round the house, but I could not find a particle of bed clothing.

6405. Is not the possession of a tick rather an indication of a certain amount of comfort?—It is.

6406. You say that this is one of the poorest men in the place, and still you want to impress upon the Committee your belief that there was a tick in this man's house?—I want to tell the Committee that I think, on Mrs. Russell's property, there is not one in ten that has not got a tick with straw or chaff in it.

6407. Do you say that from your own observation?—Yes, I say that from my own observation.

6408. Did not you tell Mr. Serjeant Deasy that out of 50 houses you examined only 16?—Yes.

6409. Then what is your assertion about the ticks?—I say that those houses I went into were as poor as any that Mrs. Russell had.

6410. Do you say that in every house of the 16 there was a tick?—No, I do not say so, but I can tell every house where they have a tick.

6411. Do you know Charles Roarty, another tenant of your mother-in-law's?—That man has not been returned to me has having got relief.

6412. Do you know anything about him: he is a landholder on Mrs. Russell's property, on the townland of Monybeg?—Charles Roarty is not upon the list as a tenant; if the Committee will allow me to explain, there are a great many in that district of the same name, Roartys, and Gallaghers, and other different names; if I saw the individual, if he was present before me, I could tell you who he was; at least, I could tell you where he lived, and all about him, but as regards

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names, where there are such a number of people of the same name, it is very difficult; I do not find Charles Roarty in Mrs. Russell's rental.

6413. His father's name was Neal, and I believe he is now called Charles Neal Roarty; do you recognise him now?—I have Neal Roarty on the Rev. Mr. Doherty's list, No. 706.

6414. I am only asking about a man named Charles Neal Roarty, the son of Neal Roarty, and I want to know whether you visited that man's house?—I think he is not a tenant of Mrs. Russell's at all, at least as far as I know. If he is a tenant of Mrs. Russell's I know him; but I cannot just bring my mind to know the individual to whom the Honourable Member refers.

6415. I think you gave some particulars with respect to your visit to the house of a man named Art O'Donnell, and you represented him as having three beds; will you tell me what kind of beds they were?—I looked at the beds, and one of them appeared to me to have a tick on.

6416. Can you say that positively?—Yes, positively. I turned it over and there was a tick on one bed.

6417. Did you examine the others?—I do not remember the others. I could not say whether there was a tick on the others, but they appeared to me, as far as my recollection goes, upon bedsteads.

6418. You stated that there were potatoes in a sack, that they might be carried off; do you not know that that man is a carrier?—I do.

6419. If those were ready to be carried off, might not that man be discharging his duty in taking them elsewhere?—Decidedly so.

6420. Does his having those potatoes in a sack, and their appearing to be ready to be carried off, afford an indication of an attempt at fraud?—Having discovered circumstances of fraud myself in the house preceding, to tell the truth, I was rather suspicious, and I may have come to that conclusion wrongfully.

6421. Are the Committee to assume from you that every carrier who has a sack of potatoes in his house ready to be carried off, is determined to perpetrate a fraud?—No; I say that I may have come to a wrong conclusion.

6422. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What do you mean by a carrier?—He is a man who carries goods to the adjoining market-towns, and he has a horse and cart.

6423. Mr. *Maguire.*] In one of your investigations I think you stated that you poked under the bed of Paddy Conaghan?—I do not think I poked under the bed of Paddy Conaghan; it was under the bed of Hugh Roarty that I poked with a stick.

6424. Under the bed of Hugh Roarty, I think, you were lucky enough to lug out blankets of a peculiar manufacture, which you said were not shop blankets?—They were home manufactured, not shop blankets.

6425. What impression do you endeavour to leave upon the minds of the Committee from the result at which you arrived?—My own impression and my feeling at the time was, that they were concealed in order to give me the idea that the man was poorer than he really was, because the bed was made up as if it were made up for the day with a coverlet over it, which was miserably thin, and a miserable sheet under it.

6426. Will you go so far as to state your belief that these home manufactured blankets had been in his own possession previously to the time of the distress?—I do not know whether those blankets had been in his possession previously, or not; I only found them underneath the bed.

6427. Do you know that contributions of clothing of all kinds, whether purchased in shops or manufactured by individuals, had been sent to the Relief Committee, and distributed by them to the people?—Those blankets were dirty, and they could not, in my opinion, have been given by the Relief Committee, and they appeared to have been slept in for months without being washed.

6428. Do you know that bundles of wearing materials of various kinds, and in a variety of stages, had been sent into the country?—No; I have not heard that there have been old clothes sent.

6429. Do you know to the contrary?—I do not know to the contrary. My understanding with regard to the clothing was this, that the clothing was altogether bought at the shop of Mr. Gallagher of Letterkenny.

6430. When did the distribution of this relief, in the shape of clothing, take place; was not it on the 8th of March?—I believe it was; I cannot tell the date

6431. When

6431. When afterwards did you visit the place?—I visited it on the 10th of May.

6432. Was it two months after?—It may have been, but I do not know the dates.

6433. I ask you this question: Assuming that that blanket was given to that man, in a tolerably decent state, on the 10th of March, considering the condition of the house and the habits of the people, might it not present a rather forbidding appearance on the 10th of May, when you visited him?—I saw blankets that were given by the committee on that townland, and they were clean blankets compared with those blankets I am speaking of.

6434. You have not answered the question: Assuming that a blanket was given to that man, in a tolerably decent state, on the 10th of March, is it not probable that it might be in a rather different condition on the 10th of May, when you examined the house?—Decidedly so.

6435. I think you took some credit for having expended a very large sum of money in improvements on Mrs. Russell's estate, amounting to 1,300 *l.*?—I state that Mr. Russell expended, during his lifetime, 2,000 *l.*, and since that 1,300 *l.* has been expended by the trustees of the estate.

6436. Did that include any money collected in England, independently of it altogether?—I think that I am entitled to explain that. When Mrs. Russell went to Dunlewey, there was no church there, and she had a large household of her own, and a good many Protestant tenants in the neighbourhood, and she set to work to collect funds to build a church. There was 1,200 *l.* laid out on a church; there was 1,200 *l.* laid out on a glebe-house; there was 800 *l.* laid out on an endowment, which is now in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in Ireland, and of that amount Mrs. Russell has expended 400 *l.* of her own money.

6437. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Beyond what was collected?—Beyond what was collected.

6438. Mr. *Maguire.*] What was the amount collected in England?—I cannot say.

6439. Was it 3,000 *l.*?—I do not know; the gross amount expended was upwards of 3,200 *l.*

6440. How much of that was sent from England?—The greater part of it.

6441. What proportion?—I cannot tell at all what proportion.

6442. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Mrs. Russell's brother is a wealthy man in the south of England, is he not?—Yes.

6443. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Was the money collected by the exertions of Mrs. Russell?—By the sole exertions of herself and daughters, who wrote appeals for her to the public.

6444. Did they get any money from any public fund?—No. I wish to convey to the Committee that in addition to the money collected from the public, Mrs. Russell herself laid out 400 *l.*

6445. Lord *Naas.*] With regard to this 1,300 *l.* that you are speaking of as being laid out on the improvement of the estate, was any portion of that the money to which you have been alluding now?—Not one farthing.

6446. Mr. *Maguire*] What improvements were made by this 1,300 *l.*?—There was a very large stable, and cowhouses, and barns built.

6447. What was made for the original native tenants?—There was a road made, there was a bridge made, and several cottages for tenants; I could not tell you the proportions; I can only tell the sum which was laid out on the property.

6448. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You were not there when the money was laid out?—No.

6449. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did that include the stabling and the barns which were made for Mr. Russell himself?—Yes; there were a great many farm offices built.

6450. Was it for the benefit of the tenants, or for the immediate comfort and enjoyment of the landlord?—Indirectly, it was for the benefit of the tenants, and directly also as regards the cottages, roads, bridge.

6451. You said, in answer to a question which was put to you by Mr. Serjeant Deasy, that you could not particularise at what time you visited those houses; are not you the dispensary physician?—Yes.

6452. And are you not bound to keep a register of your visits?—Yes; and I have the register at home, and if I had been desired to bring it, I could have produced it.

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6453. You stated that in cases of measles, the people do not call upon you?—No; and in fevers, and in cases of scarlatina, a great many do not apply to me.

6454. Were there many deaths in Gweedore last winter?—I do not know of my own knowledge of but one from scarlatina, but I have heard of three or four of a family, but they did not apply to me in my private or public capacity.

6455. Did you see the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden going to attend sick calls?—Yes; I have frequently seen him passing my house; he always passes my house in going through the district; sometimes, daily.

6456. Do you admit that the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden passed you two or three times on sick calls?—I do not know whether it was on sick calls; he has been in the habit of passing, and I have no doubt that he passed me frequently when he was on sick calls.

6457. I think a very large number of persons applied for relief to the Rev. Mr. M'Gee on the 8th of March?—I heard myself that the entire country went there, and I heard that several of them suffered from the severity of the weather in going there.

6458. Is it very likely that a person who was to administer relief, if a very large crowd waited upon him, could give relief to every one of them; was it humanly possible?—I should say that it would be a very difficult matter.

6459. You talked of biscuits having been given to those people; do you know that they were given for the purpose of preventing people from being hungry on the road?—I should say so; I have heard so.

6460. Do you know that all the biscuits in the district were given to the people?—I did not hear it, but it might have been so.

6461. *Chairman.*] Mr. Russell purchased this estate in 1844 or 1845, did he not?—Yes.

6462. As a matter of fact, without going into any legal questions about it, have the people living upon that estate which Mrs. Russell has now, and which was purchased by Mr. Russell, the same amount of commonage which they had when Mr. Russell purchased the estate?—At the present time, some of the people say that they have a right over all Mrs. Russell's property, and they say that they are exercising that right in opposition to her on all those mountains at present which, if it goes on, the only course which remains to her, will be to eject them all, and it would be very much contrary to her wish to do so. She has offered those mountains to the people at the valuation of Mr. Swiney, a gentleman well known in the north of Ireland as a valuator; he valued them at a certain sum of money, and the people were offered those mountains at a valuation, and although Mrs. Russell, as I have been informed, could get double or treble that sum of money from strangers, she has not set them to strangers, but they are for the people, if they wish to take them.

6463. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] If they agree to take them at the rent put upon them by Mr. Swiney?—Yes.

6464. And do the people at present decline to pay the rent?—They do; the other day the bailiff drove some cattle for trespass off those mountains, which, by their own agreements, did not belong to them, because I was the person who re-set the property; and this last year they brought in a defence before the magistrates that they never gave up possession of those mountains, although the cattle had been driven off those mountains ever since the new arrangement.

6465. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Can you give the number relieved at the dispensary this year and last year?—Yes, I have a return showing the number of patients attended at the dispensaries, and visited at their houses, in the years 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, and part of 1858, by myself.

6466. Mr. *Dobbs.*] To what date in 1858?—Up to the beginning of May 1858.

6467. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Will you put in that return?—Yes. (*Delivering in the same.*)

6468. *Chairman.*] Do you mean that those are the red tickets?—No, the conjoint tickets; it is merely the total number.

6469. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Has there been a decrease in the number this last year?—It shows so on the returns.

6470. Sir *William Somerville.*] Did all Mrs. Russell's tenants pay the tax?—No, they did not.

6471. Did all in the list that you referred to just now pay the tax?—I think they did; there may be an exception.

6472. Mr.

6472. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] Are you sure that they all paid?—There may be one or two exceptions.

6473. Sir *William Somerville*.] What made the exceptions?—There are sundry people here reported to me by Mrs. Russell's steward as having got relief that do not appear on Mr. Doherty's list at all.

6474. I am talking of the tax?—The townland of Crawley paid the tax; all the people that I mentioned in that townland were relieved.

6475. Did every one of those individuals on the list to which you referred before the Committee, pay the tax?—I have no list; it is merely individuals I have taken out.

6476. Is the townland subject to the tax?—Yes; the whole of the townland of Crawley is subject to the tax.

6477. Was it levied upon each occupier in the townland?—Yes.

6478. You think they all paid the tax?—All in Crawley paid the tax.

6479. Did all in Crawley receive relief?—They did, to the best of my opinion, with the exception of one man who is not on Mr. Doherty's list, which man is returned to me here as having got relief by Mrs. Russell's steward; and all the people in the townland told me that each individual in that townland got 3*s.* of money for every pound of rent they paid.

6480. I ask you if they all paid the tax and have got relief in that townland?—I am not sure with regard to one individual in the town.

6481. Is there any one of those individuals in a destitute state?—I should say not.

6482. Are there any in the townland not landholders who got relief, who did not pay the tax?—There are none living in the town but landholders.

6483. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] Were other townlands charged with the tax?—The townland of Dunlewey was charged with the tax.

6484. Two townlands out of four were charged with the tax?—Moneybeg was charged with the tax; Baltoney Mountain was not.

6485. Mr. *Maguire*.] Did Baltoney Mountain get the relief?—I was told by a man in it that they got relief; the people told me themselves that they had. I visited two houses in that townland, and the people told me that they had got relief.

6486. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] Is the employment of labour very abundant, and is there a considerable demand for labour on that estate?—There is.

6487. You yourself do not employ much if you only occupy 20 acres?—I do not employ very much; but there has been a difficulty in getting labourers for Dunlewey farm. I know it from the land-steward when I have been transacting business with him.

6488. You do not know it of your own knowledge; you have found no difficulty yourself in getting labourers?—No.

6489. Mr. *Maguire*.] Do you say that the people on the townland of Crawley are all rich?—No, I do not say that.

6490. Do you know a landholder named Daniel Green?—I do.

6491. Did you visit his house?—I did. My observations on visiting his house are, He was from home. I saw his wife. There were good beds and bedding; and potatoes in the house. The woman was comfortably clad; she showed me some things that she had got in the shape of relief; from the priests, she said.

6492. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] What quantity of potatoes were there in the house?—I could not say exactly the quantity; there were some hundred weights of potatoes; unless there was a great amount of potatoes in the house, I did not make any remark as to the quantity.

6493. Mr. *Maguire*.] What was this comfortable bed made of?—A tick, with chaff over it.

6494. Are you positive of that?—I am positive of it.

6495. Did you examine it?—Yes; the beds had the look of as comfortable beds as you will see in any farm-house of that class.

6496. Did you take up the clothes, and examine what the bed was composed of?—I did.

6497. Are you positive that it was a tick bed?—Yes; whenever I marked "good beds" in my list, it meant that the material was in a tick.

6498. And you assert that Daniel Green had this sort of bed?—Yes.

6499. Mr. *Dobbs*.] Will you look at the return which you have in your hands, and

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and state to the Committee the number relieved at the dispensaries in 1856?—Eight hundred and sixty.

6500. How many were there in 1857?—Seven hundred and nine; but the return goes only to the first five months of 1858.

6501. Will you also state to the Committee the number in the five months of 1857, and also in the first five months of 1858?—In the first five months of 1857 the number was 298, and in the first five months of 1858 there were 300, two more.

6502. Mr. *Maguire.*] Do your brother doctors of Dunfanaghy visit your district very often?—They visit occasionally.

6503. Did they last winter?—They occasionally did so a few times during the winter.

Mr. *Joseph Thompson*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Thompson.*

6504. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] WHAT are you?—A constable of the constabulary at Cross-roads.

6505. How long have you been stationed there?—Since the 2d of April 1857; I have been in the district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely since the 20th of May 1847; I was some time in the neighbouring district, that is the Rosses.

6506. You are well acquainted with the district, are you not?—Yes.

6507. Do you know anything about the distribution of relief there lately?—I saw it distributed; I saw tickets given.

6508. Did you hear any announcement first, as to the way in which it was to be distributed?—Yes; previous to Sunday, the 2d of May 1858, it was announced in the chapel that none were to get relief except those who paid sheep or police tax.

6509. *Chairman.*] Did you hear that yourself?—I heard it from some of my party who were there.

6510. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Was that report made by some of the constables to you as sergeant in the constabulary?—Yes.

6511. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You stated that it was announced in the chapel that those people who paid sheep tax alone should be entitled to relief at that period?—Yes.

6512. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] When was that announcement made?—I do not exactly know the Sunday, but it was previous to Sunday, the 2d of May.

6513. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You were present at the distribution of some relief, were you not?—I saw the parties get relief.

6514. Were any of those parties that you saw getting relief those whose circumstances you knew?—Yes, several.

6515. Will you state one or two of them?—There is one man named Paddy Herraghty, in Ballinatemple, No. 77 in M'Fadden's book, received relief.

6516. What are his circumstances?—He has a horse, five cows, and 15 sheep.

6517. Do you know that of your own knowledge?—I know it of my own knowledge.

6518. Do you know Thomas M'Causland?—He is a blacksmith, and lives in Clonbarra, on the property of the Rev. Charles Stewart.

6519. Does he get relief?—Yes, he appears as No. 71 in the Rev Mr. M'Fadden's book.

6520. What is the amount of his stock?—One horse, five cows, and 12 sheep.

6521. Do you know Owen M'Cue?—Yes; he is called Shane Baccagh.

6522. What is the amount of his stock?—This man is on the property of the Earl of Leitrim; he has a horse, five cows, ten sheep, and 12 pigs; this man has money at interest.

6523. How do you know?—I called at the house of Dominick M'Moingle of the same townland, and he told me that Owen M'Cue had sold some pigs to him; a few days after that I was in M'Moingle's house, and he said he purchased them on this condition, that he was to give 6 *s.* in May, or 9 *s.* in November; he took the pigs at the 3 *s.* difference in price to November from this Owen M'Cue.

6524. How does that show that he has money at interest?—I am showing that he had it at interest till November. John Sweeney, of Ballintemple, has two pigs on the same terms from M'Cue.

6525. What was the state of Owen M'Cue's house?—In the most filthy state when

when I went to the house; I visited this house under the Nuisance Removal and Disease Prevention Act, by order of my officer, and I say that Owen M'Cue's house was in the most filthy state.

6526. Lord *Naas.*] Were the pigs in the house?—There were four in the house, the rest were outside the house; four of them were under a bed which I saw in the kitchen.

6527. Had he a pig-stye?—None.

6528. Do the 12 pigs sleep in the house every night?—Yes; one half of the house is down, so that it is a most wretched looking place.

6529. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Had you any opportunity of seeing the nature of his clothes?—He appeared in the most abject poverty in his personal clothes.

6530. Did you see anything of his bed clothing?—I would not give 1 *s.* for all the bed clothes in the house.

6531. Do you consider that that man is in a destitute state?—Any strangers going through the country would have looked upon him as being in circumstances of the most abject poverty.

6532. You, who know him well, were aware that he was in comfortable circumstances?—Yes.

6533. Had he got any meal?—He told me he had. I saw a quantity of meal in a bag in the house, and he told me that it was half a hundred-weight he had received as relief; he appeared on the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden's book as No. 332, having received relief.

6534. Do you know a man of the name of Jack M'Ghee upon the Rev. Mr. Nixon's property?—Yes; he lives in the townland of Tullaghobegley, Irish, the property of the Rev. Alexander Nixon.

6535. Did he get relief?—I do not know; but he is on the property where they paid the police-tax.

6536. You do not know whether he is on the list for relief?—I cannot find his name on the list.

6537. You do not know whether he got any relief?—I do not know.

6538. Are you in the habit of making out agricultural returns?—Yes.

6539. Do you find any difficulty in making them out now?—Yes; it is impossible to make accurate agricultural statistics this year in that district. Some of the men who are employed this year tell me that the first question that is asked them is, "Is this inquiry for London?" and they will not give the particulars of their stock; they will give nothing like the stock; and a report is about being made which will accompany those returns to Henrietta-street when they are returned, stating that they do not believe them to be accurate so far as the stock is concerned.

6540. In fact, you have found the greatest difficulty in getting any accurate account of the stock this year, as distinguished from other years?—Yes.

6541. Did the people seem to be aware that any inspection was going on lately?—I think so.

6542. Have you any proof of that?—Yes; when Mr. Sharman Crawford came; the day before he came to the district it was told in Crossroads, where I am stationed, that he was about to come through the country to make an inspection.

6543. The day before he came it was announced at Crossroads that he was to be there on the following day?—Yes.

6544. Lord *Naas.*] Did you hear it yourself the day before?—I did.

6545. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Were you in this district at the time of the famine?—Yes, I was in the district of Gweedore in 1847; I was there from the 20th of May 1847, to the 10th of November 1851.

6546. You are well acquainted with the state of the people at that period, are you not?—Yes.

6547. And with the exertions which were then made to relieve them?—Yes.

6548. Was a quantity of food distributed?—Yes; but I cannot speak as to the quantity.

6549. Were the number of applications very great?—I attended what was called the soup kitchen, in the summer of 1847, with Hugh M'Bride. I was to go there to protect him while he was giving out relief to the crowds that applied in the famine year of 1847.

6550. Is there anything going on at present to be compared with that?—Nothing bordering on it.

6551. In fact, it is your opinion that there is no real destitution in that district?—There

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—There are some poor people in the district; but to say that there is destitution, as represented in the appeal I have read, is perfect nonsense.

6552. You were some years out of the Gweedore district, about four years?—I was nearly five years in the parish of Lettermacaward.

6553. When did you return to the district?—I returned to take charge of the Gweedore station on the 16th of October 1856.

6554. Did the appearance of the people on your return strike you as much worse that when you left it?—It was much improved from the time that I left it.

6555. In what respect?—In every respect, both in appearance and in the way in which they managed their farms and their houses.

6556. Do you know anything of the case of Bell M'Bride, who is supposed to have died of destitution?—I have some notes taken of it. On the evening of the 18th of May last, Mr. Olphert, the magistrate, called at the barrack and directed me to go and make inquiry if a woman named Bell M'Bride had died of destitution, as alleged. I went to the house, which is about a quarter of a mile from the barrack, and saw her daughter, and I told her that it had been represented by a Poor-law guardian for the Dunfanaghy Union that her mother had died of destitution, and she seemed quite offended at the idea of such a representation being made. She told me at the same time that her mother had received 1 *l.* some short time before from America, and she told me that her mother was 82 years of age when she died; she died I think about the 14th or 15th of April. My object in making the inquiry was, that if it should be considered a case of death from destitution, I should have reported it to the coroner.

6557. Have you any knowledge of a man who died, of the name of Whoreskey; who died in the snow?—Nothing further than meeting policeman M'Donagh, the acting constable in charge of the Keeldrum station. He told me that he had found this man dead, and he had made inquiry as to the cause of his death; and he told me that he had searched him, and found 18 *s.* on his person.

6558. Is there much consumption of whiskey at Crossroads, where you are stationed?—There is a monthly fair held there, and an enormous quantity of whiskey is drank there. I cannot tell the quantity.

6559. Have you any means of judging whether it has diminished or increased?—I do not think that it has diminished.

6560. In the course of your duty you are brought into contact with the people of the country; is it your opinion that, in point of clothes and general appearance, they are not worse, or are they better, than they have been for a few years past?—I have only been since the 2d of April 1857 at Cloughaneely. I look upon the people as much improved, both in appearance and clothing.

6561. Do you see the people occasionally on their road to their chapel?—Every Sunday.

6562. Does their appearance strike you as very dejected, or the contrary?—Nothing of the sort; they have a costume of their own that would appear to strangers rather odd, that is, half of them wear a flannel waistcoat; they are in no way tasty as to their dress, and they would appear to strangers to be in a state of real poverty, when I know that they are not.

6563. It is not the habit for unmarried women to wear bonnets in that part of the country?—Some few of them do; but generally speaking they do not.

6564. Lord *Naas.*] Do they wear shoes?—Sometimes they are in the habit of carrying their shoes in their hands, till they get near the chapel or market town, and then they put them on. I have seen them do it.

6565. Do you know that they wear more shoes now than when you came into the district of Gweedore?—I see a great deal more.

6566. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Are you prepared, if called upon, to state a great many other instances in which relief was given to people in good circumstances?—I am prepared so far as this, I am prepared from the general talk of the country; but I did not see it, and therefore I do not know personally.

6567. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] When was this report made to you about the announcement at chapel?—It was some time previous to Sunday, the 2d of May.

6568. Can you say when?—I do not know the date.

6569. Was it made to you officially?—No, it was merely verbally told me that it was given out in chapel.

6570. Did not you say it was reported to you?—I mean it was told me by one of the policeman on his return from chapel.

6571. Are

6571. Are you in charge of that station?—Yes, I am in charge of that station; but as it was not affecting the peace of the country, I did not think it worth making a report of.

6572. It was one of your men that told you?—It was one of my men that told me.

6573. He had been at mass, and heard it?—He had been at mass, and heard it.

6574. What is the man's name?—His name is John Dwyer.

6575. Is he there still?—Yes.

6576. Did he say the name of the priest who had made that announcement?—He did, but I do not quite recollect it now; I think it was the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden, but I am not quite sure.

6577. It was a gentleman who is not here?—That is the person I was told.

6578. The person who told you is not here?—No.

6579. Was not relief given on Lord Leitrim's property?—Yes; I can give instances.

6580. Was it subject to the tax?—No, it never paid the tax.

6581. With regard to this man that had the money at interest, Owen M'Cue, was it money that he had on pigs at interest?—I will explain; it was pigs that he sold; but I look upon that as money at interest.

6582. Did you ever hear that he had been refused relief by the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden?—I find his name down in the relief book, and he told me himself that he got it.

6583. Do you think that an answer to my question; did you ever hear at all that the man who had money on pigs at interest had been refused relief by the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden?—No; but I heard that he went in the morning, and received half a hundred-weight of meal, and his wife went in the evening and received more.

6584. Was that from the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden?—I do not know; it was the person who gave it out.

6585. On the whole, you consider that this district has considerably improved since 1851?—Since 1847.

6586. You left it in 1851?—Yes.

6587. Has it improved much since 1851?—I look upon it as improved.

6588. And that the people are better clothed and better fed than they were then?—Yes.

6589. They have more means you think, and more stock?—I do think so.

6590. You talked about the agricultural returns; I suppose it is not you that make those returns?—No; not this year.

6591. They were made, I suppose, by your men?—They are being made at present.

6592. You know nothing, except what the men have told you?—No further than it is reported to me, and I report the same to the officers.

6593. Was that report in writing?—No; my superior officer was attending the fair, and he directed me, when those returns are perfected, to make those men make a report, to accompany them to Henrietta-street, stating that they believe them not to be correct.

6594. Lord *Naas.*] Since you have been in the district, have you been engaged in collecting those returns of property?—Yes; I was in 1848, 1849, and 1850 on Lord George Hill's property in Gweedore.

6595. Did you find any difficulty in getting accurate returns then?—No.

6596. Was there any indisposition on the part of the people then to give returns of their stock?—Not of stock; but at that time I perfectly recollect when I went to the people to know in whose possession those mountains were, they all refused having anything to do with them, and I went to Lord George Hill, and asked him whether they were in his possession or the tenants', and he said they were in his; and if reference is made to the return, you will find it so there.

6597. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] You made returns yourself as to their stock, did you not?—Yes.

6598. And you say you saw them?—Yes.

6599. You found no difficulty in getting them?—That was before the inquiry now.

6600. When was the last inspection made?—A part of this was made on Saturday the 1st of May, and on Sunday the 2d of May it was given out in the chapel that an inquiry was likely to be made, and an inspection of the people, and

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some would be called over to appear here to say how the landlords had used them; I heard that from Dwyer, and after that I could not get any information relative to the stock in their houses.

6601. Were all your returns of stock made before the 1st of May?—Not altogether returns of stock. I was directed to go out and visit the localities where the people were said to be in a wretched state of dirt and filth; I was going on to visit the houses under the Nuisances Removal and Diseases Prevention Act, and I have a list of some of the houses that I visited. I made a report after that to the guardians of the poor of Dunfanaghy Union, stating some of those cases which I have mentioned here, and I can give in a copy of the report, if the Committee wish.

6602. When you say you were directed, by whom were you directed?—By my sub-inspector.

6603. In how many cases did you try to get returns after the 1st of May, yourself?—I tried in several places; I tried in the townland of Ray, and I tried in the townland of Magheraroarty.

6604. How many persons did you go to on each of those townlands?—I went to nearly the whole of them. My object was to visit and inquire whether they had cattle in their houses.

6605. What difficulty did you find in getting returns?—They refused to give any information whatever.

6606. Could you see the cattle yourself?—Yes, some of them; but the Earl of Leitrim has a mountain which is let to graziers by his bailiff, and on Monday, the 3d of May, I suppose I met 200 cattle from various townlands going to this mountain, and after that I could get no correct account of the stock in their houses; no one was disposed to give it, and I could not see them.

6607. Those cattle that you met were going to the mountains for the summer grazing, were they not?—Yes; for the summer grazing.

6608. Who directed you to make the returns of the stock?—No person directed me to make returns of the stock.

6609. It was done out of your own head?—No.

6610. Was it any part of your duty on that occasion to get returns of the stock?—No further than this, to know what cattle were in the houses, that I might represent it to the guardians of the poor.

6611. Lord *Naas.*] Under what Act of Parliament did you perform that duty?—Under the 12th & 13th Vict. c. 111.

6612. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Your duty only extended to the state of the houses?—My duty only extended to the state of the houses, and the premises.

6613. You had no duty imposed upon you of obtaining agricultural statistics at that time?—Not then; the agricultural statistics were commenced on the 2d of this month.

6614. Will the men who made them be here?—No; they are at them at present.

6615. Mr. *Maguire.*] With regard to Bell M'Bride, what did you say to her daughter when you went there; try and recal the conversation?—I went into the house, and I asked her was it true, as was represented the day before at the board of guardians, that her mother had died of destitution, and she said not; I told her that Mr. M'Ilroy, the guardian, had represented so, and that I had been sent to make inquiries, and she denied it.

6616. Did you say anything to her to this effect, that it was stated abroad that she had died of cholera, or some strange disease?—I am positive that I said nothing of the kind whatever; my question was particularly about destitution.

6617. You said nothing about cholera or some strange disease?—Nothing whatever.

6618. Whose property is Lettermacaward?—It is the property of Thomas Connolly, Esq.

6619. Is there a difference between the condition of the people on that property and those in Gweedore and Cloughaneely?—I am sure, from my own knowledge of five years in the place (from Douhery Bridge to Lough Barra), in the parish of Lettermacaward it is much worse than either Gweedore or Cloughaneely, except one or two cases.

6620. How many inhabitants might there be on that district which you speak of?—I have not made a calculation. There are about six or seven townlands on that line from Douhery Bridge up to Loughbarra, in the parish of Lettermacaward.

6621. Are

6621. Are there more than 20 families on it?—There are more than five twenties.

6622. From Douhery Bridge to Lough Barra are there 50?—There are more than twice 50.

6623. Lord *Naas.*] Do you know the people of the Rosses?—Not so well as the parish of Lettermacaward, my former district.

6624. Were you ever in the Rosses?—I attended the fair at Dunloe monthly.

6625. Do you think that the condition of the people there is pretty much the same as in Cloughaneely and Gweedore?—Very much the same, only at present they are not so much given to fighting.

6626. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Have you seen the people use the seaweed much as food?—I have seen seaweed used, but not the seaweed that has been represented in some of the evidence before this Committee.

6627. But different kinds of seaweed have been used, and are in use, ever since you have been in this district?—Yes, more or less.

6628. Mr. *Maguire.*] When were you promoted?—On the 10th of November 1851, as acting constable, and I was sent to take charge of the Lettermacaward station.

6629. When were you promoted to the rank of constable?—On the 1st of February 1854.

6630. Did any person accompany you on your inspection of the townlands of Ray and Magheraroarty?—No.

6631. Was Mr. Clements with you?—No, but I met him.

Lord *George Hill*, called in; and Examined.

6632. Mr. *Dobbs.*] WHEN did your Lordship first visit the district of Gweedore?—In 1834, when I was making a tour of the west coast of Ireland.

6633. Had you then any intention of purchasing property there?—Not there; but I was looking over the country generally.

6634. You afterwards purchased property in that district; in what year?—One thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight.

6635. Did you visit the district particularly before you purchased that property?—I did not again visit it.

6636. Before you purchased the property, between 1834 and the time you purchased it, did you visit it?—I did not.

6637. When you first purchased that property, of course you made particular inquiry as to the state of the district?—I did.

6638. Was it in a very poor state at that time?—In a very poor state, and a very curious petition had been given to me by a friend of mine, Sir James Dombrain; a petition presented by a national schoolmaster to the Lord Lieutenant, who was then making a tour in that country, and I beg to hand in the petition of Patrick M'Kye.

6639. Who was that petition presented to?—To the Lord Lieutenant, in 1837; it is a memorial to his Excellency from Patrick M'Kye. I beg to hand it in.

[*The Witness delivered in the same, which is as follows*:]

To His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland.*

The Memorial of *Patrick M'Kye.*

Most humbly showeth,

THAT the parishioners of this parish of West Tullaghobegley, in the barony of Kilmacrennan, and county of Donegal, are in the most needy, hungry, and naked condition of any people that ever came within the precincts of my knowledge, although I have travelled a part of nine counties in Ireland, also a part of England and Scotland, together with a part of British America. I have likewise perambulated 2,253 miles through seven of the United States, and never witnessed the tenth part of such hunger, hardships, and nakedness.

Now, my Lord, if the causes which I now lay before your Excellency were not of very extraordinary importance, I would never presume that it should be laid before you; but I consider myself in duty bound by charity to relieve distressed and hungry fellow-men.

Although I am sorry to state that my charity cannot extend further than to explain to the rich where hunger and hardship exists in almost the greatest degree that nature can endure, and which I shall endeavour to explain in detail, with all the truth and accuracy in my power, and that without the least exaggeration, as follows: There is about 4,000 persons in this parish, and all Catholics, and as poor as I shall describe, having among them no more than one cart, no wheel car, no coach or any other vehicle, one plough, 16 harrows, eight saddles, two pillions, 11 bridles, 20 shovels, 32 rakes, seven table forks, 93 chairs,

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243 stools, 10 iron grapes, no swine, hogs, or pigs, 27 geese, three turkeys, two feather beds, eight chaff beds, two stables, six cowhouses, one national school, no other school, one priest, no other resident gentleman, no bonnet, no clock, three watches, eight brass candlesticks, no looking-glasses above 3 *d.* in price, no boots, no spurs, no fruit trees, no turnips, no parsnips, no carrots, no clover, or any other garden vegetables but potatoes and cabbage, and not more than 10 square feet of glass in windows in the whole, with the exception of the chapel, the schoolhouse, the priest's house, Mr. Dombrain's house, and the constabulary barrack.

None of their either married or unmarried women can afford more than one shift, and the fewest number cannot afford any, and more than one-half of both men and women cannot afford shoes to their feet, nor can many of them afford a second bed, but whole families of sons and daughters, of mature age, indiscriminately lying together with their parents, and all in the bare buff. They have no means of harrowing their land but with meadow-rakes; their farms are so small that from four to ten farms can be harrowed in a day with one rake; their beds are straw, green and dried rushes, or mountain bent; their bed-clothes are either coarse sheets or no sheets and ragged filthy blankets; and, worse than all that I have mentioned, there is a general prospect of starvation at the present prevailing among them, and that originating from various causes, but the principal cause is a rot or failure of seed in the last year's crop, together with a scarcity of winter forage, in consequence of a long continuation of storm since October last in this part of the country; so that they, the people, were under the necessity of cutting down their potatoes and give them to their cattle, to keep them alive. All these circumstances connected together has brought hunger to reign among them to that degree that the generality of the peasantry are on the small allowance of one meal a day, and many families cannot afford more than one meal in two days, and sometimes one meal in three days; their children crying and fainting with hunger, and their parents weeping, being full of grief, hunger, debility, and dejection, with gloomy aspect looking at their children likely to expire in the jaws of starvation; also, in addition to all, their cattle and sheep are dying with hunger and their owners forced by hunger to eat the flesh of such.

'Tis reasonable to suppose that the use of such flesh will raise some infectious disease among the people, and may very reasonably be supposed that the people will die more numerous than the cattle and sheep, if some immediate relief are not sent to alleviate their hunger.

Now, my Lord, it may, perhaps, seem inconsistent with truth that all that I have said could possibly be true, but to convince your noble Excellency of the truth of all that I have said, I will venture to challenge the world to produce one single person to contradict any part of my statement. Although I must acknowledge that, if reference were made to any of the landlords or landholders of the parish, that they would contradict it, as it is evident it would blast their honours if it were known abroad that such a degree of want existed in their estates among their tenantry. But here is how I make my reference and support the truth of all that I have said; that is, if any unprejudiced gentleman should be sent here to investigate strictly into the truth of it, I will, if called on, go with him, from house to house, where his eyes will fully satisfy and convince him, and where I can show him about 140 children bare-naked, and was so during winter, and some hundreds only covered with rags, most disgustful to look at. Also, man and beast housed together, *i. e.*, the families in one end of the house, and the cattle in the other end of the kitchen; some houses having within its walls from 1 cwt. to 30 cwts. of dung, others having from 10 to 15 tons weight of dung, and only cleaned out once a year. I have also to add that the National School has greatly decreased in number of scholars through hunger and extreme poverty; and the teacher of said school, with a family of nine persons depending on a salary of 8 *l.* a year, without any benefit from any other source. If I may hyperbolically speak, it is an honour to the Board of Education.

One remark before I conclude. I refer your noble Excellency, for the authenticity of the above statement, to the Rev. H. O'F——, parish priest, and to Mr. R——, chief constable, stationed at Gweedore, in said parish, and Mr. P——, chief officer of coast guard in same district.

Yours, &c.

(signed) *Patrick M'Kye.*

6640. Did that petition set forth the state of the district at the time?—It did.

6641. How much property did you purchase there?—I purchased four different estates, commencing in 1838. In 1838 I purchased one estate, and in following years I purchased three more, making altogether upwards of 23,000 acres, I think.

6642. Did you on that property build stores and quays?—I did.

6643. On the part of it next the shore?—Yes, at Bunbeg.

6644. Was any harbour there when you went there?—None at all; there was no landing-place even for a boat; it was in the wildest and roughest state possible; there was nothing but large masses of rock thrown about in all directions.

6645. Did you build a harbour, and pier and quay at your own expense?—Entirely at my own expense.

6646. What

6646. What sort of vessels can come up to that pier now?—Vessels up to 150 tons can come up.

6647. Did you also build a corn-mill in that district at your own expense?—I did; I built a corn-mill, and I may say most providentially so, before the breaking out of the famine, at an expense of 750 *l.*; it was the only corn-mill fitted up with French stones, called burr stones, able to grind Indian corn. There was then none nearer than Glenties, on Lord Conyngham's property, 30 miles off; and if I may refer to this, it worked day and night for the whole year, and ground 688 tons of Indian corn; the Government had no meal to send to the country; it could only send Indian corn.

6648. In what year was that?—In the famine year, 1847.

6649. Did you also build a school-house for the coast-guard's children there?—I built five houses for the coast-guard, and a school-house for them, or for the use of the country generally, for any one that chose to go there to learn to sew, or for any education which they might require.

6650. Was there any Church of England service in that district when you first went there?—None nearer than Killult, 12 miles distance, and I therefore got the bishop of the diocese to license the school-house for Divine Service on Sunday, and I collected money from my friends to build a glebe house, at which a Church of England clergyman now resides, paid by me. His salary is paid by me, as well as the salary of the schoolmaster, and all the expense of the school. I am connected with no society whatever in that respect.

6651. Do you get any assistance from any public fund for the support of the school-house or the salary of the clergyman?—None at all; I never did.

6652. There is a store there, is there not?—There is a large store and a shop. It was said that the people had no market for their grain nearer than Cross Roads or Dunfanaghy, and the roads were impassable when I went there. I could not even ride a horse along the county road.

6653. It was not fit for the passage of carriages or carts?—No, it was not.

6654. Is that store and shop occupied at present?—It is occupied by a merchant who holds it from me.

6655. Does he pay you rent?—He pays me 30 *l.* a year.

6656. Does he carry on business on his own account?—Entirely.

6657. Have you anything to do with it except to receive the rent?—Nothing at all to do with it but that. I also built a dispensary at the same place, to which the medical attendant of our union comes weekly.

6658. When you first purchased the property was it held in rundale?—It was; it was in a most confused state.

6659. Had you it surveyed?—I had it surveyed and laid out in separate farms at an expense of 600 *l.*

6660. Did that rundale system produce litigation among the tenants?—There was nothing else but quarrels; and since they have had the land in separate farms they have often said to me, "We have great peace now." The greatest pains were taken by the surveyor, my agent, and myself, to see that justice was done to each individual; the tenants were all called upon to assist in dividing the land, and nothing was done without their full consent and approbation, and they were given time to talk over and think over the different farms and divisions, and if any one had any complaint to make the surveyor returned to the ground, my agent returned to the ground, and I returned to the ground, and we endeavoured to give the fullest justice to all; and they have expressed themselves frequently as being perfectly satisfied. It was at this time that not only the arable land was divided but the grazing land, what are called the mountains, and sufficient grazing was given, according to the opinion of this competent surveyor, Mr. Montgomery; he gave sufficient grazing for the whole of the tenants, and since that time, upon the remainder of the grazing, which was allotted to me as landlord, I have paid county cess, and any tax that is charged upon it.

6661. On the part allotted to you?—On the mountains.

6662. On what part of the mountain have you paid the assessment?—On what is called the landlord's share, after the tenants had been provided for.

6663. You do not pay it upon the tenants' portion?—Not upon the tenants' portion.

6664. Lord *Naas.*] How did the surveyor make this calculation with regard to the quantity of land requisite for the wants of the people; was it with reference

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to the stock that they had before?—Probably it was, and with reference to the share that each held of arable land, I should think.

6665. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Who paid the cess on the other portion?—The tenants paid the county cess, but I have always paid the poor rates; I never charged them with any, even those that had holdings above 4 *l.*

6666. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Is that the case on all your property?—Yes, and the income tax, and everything; they pay only the county cess.

6667. After those farms were allotted, a portion to each individual, have the tenants ever since that period ever had any right of putting their cattle on the portions of the mountains that were retained by you?—No right at all; on a great part of them I have kept herds, whom I have paid myself, and I have taken in grazing cattle from the low lands, so as to show my right to them; and I have also impounded cattle and sheep which have been found trespassing.

6668. So that you exercised all the rights of ownership, without dispute, upon those portions?—Yes, ever since the allotment.

6669. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Are the tenants' portions separated by any other boundary from other portions?—They are not separated by any formed boundaries, but the boundaries are known, because they were all shown to the tenants who participated in making the allotments.

6670. I suppose there are natural landmarks there?—Not often.

6671. Mr. *Dobbs.*] After the lands were so divided and allotted to the tenants, what rents did the tenants pay you after such allotment?—Their rents were not increased, although they had been set at a higher value by Mr. Montgomery.

6672. They remained at the old rents, although their allotments were considered more valuable and worth more than the rent they had formerly paid?—They did; they remained at the old rents, for I wished them to gain sufficient means to pay the new rent that might be put upon them, and I kept them for 14 years at the old rent, constantly having their farms inspected by my agriculturist and my agent, so as to ascertain that no more rent than was proper should be laid upon them.

6673. Did Mr. Montgomery fix a rent upon each of those allotments at the time of his survey?—He did.

6674. Has the rent which has since been paid, the raised rent, been in accordance with the valuation of Mr. Montgomery?—Much about; there were some alterations both ways; some were raised a little and some were lowered.

6675. Does the raised rental exceed, or does it about equal, the Government valuation?—The raised rent is much the same as the new tenement valuation; I believe it is a few pounds under.

6676. Is the Government valuation generally considered in the country to be under the letting value?—Certainly under.

6677. Has your Lordship been in the habit of having premiums offered, annual shows, and different things of that sort, for the improvement of the tenantry on that property?—I have from the very beginning. I have here some of the premium notices, which any gentleman of the Committee can look at, if they please, and they will see that it is for every description of thing; for the interior of the houses, as well as for the building of them, and for the improvement of the lands and the cattle upon them. This was the case up to, I think, about the time of the famine year, and I had been put to such expense at that time, that I could not myself go on giving from 40 *l.* to 50 *l.* premiums in the course of the year; and the London Irish Peasantry Society kindly have given me since that time 15 *l.* a year to distribute in premiums for the improvement of their houses, and bedding, and other comforts; and to this I add some trifle of my own, some 5 *l* or 6 *l.*

6678. Have those premiums been given, in fact, ever since?—They have, and it is in consequence of those premiums that the houses have much improved, both internally and externally. When I purchased the property I think there were not more than three houses in which lime had been employed, and now there are something like 250. I must remark here upon the evidence of a gentleman who was brought forward, I am sorry to say, from my own county to condemn the landlords; that is Mr. Sharman Crawford. Mr. Crawford said that certainly the state of some of the houses was good externally (and also Mr. Underwood said the same thing), and bore a good appearance; but the interior was shocking to see. Nothing proved to me more the preparation that had been made for the reception of those gentlemen, because I have never given premiums for

for the exterior improvement of the houses, unless the interior was also improved. That is what I mean to say, and I thought it was most ungenerous of those gentlemen to come forward and make those statements on one side, without inquiring from my sub-agent what had been done, and the works that had been made on the property. Also my friend, Mr. Olphert, wrote to Mr. Sharman Crawford to invite him to hear from him the state of the country, but he declined; he had no time for it. At Gweedore he had likewise no time to inspect the improvements that I had made, and those improvements have had my unceasing attention for 20 years. I have expended my time and my means in improving the condition of the people of that country.

6679. Did you, in point of fact, expend the whole of 13 years' income that you had received from that property, in the improvement of it?—I did; I not only expended all the rents during that time, but much more besides from other sources.

6680. There is a hotel at Gweedore, I believe, built by you?—I built that hotel about 1841 or 1842, I think.

6681. Is there a farm surrounding it, in connexion with it?—There is a farm surrounding it.

6682. Do you know what is the extent of that farm?—My agent will tell you; I think there is about 20 acres of cultivated land.

6683. Was it all uncultivated at the time you built it?—It was not worth 10 *s.*; there was no house in it nor any spade put in it beyond a miserable ditch, if it could be called such a thing, on some grazing ground; and now I have mentioned that, I will say that what Thomas M'Bride stated was very far from the truth; he said that I had taken land from Bryan Boyle. Now, this grazing ground, I believe, before the lands were divided was occupied by this Bryan Boyle, and it fell into my farm. There was this old ditch, and I was so particular that I desired that it also might be valued; it was valued at 12 *s.*, which I offered to pay, and Bryan Boyle refused it. Bryan Boyle is an excellent workman, an industrious man, and is constantly employed by me, and he has never made the slightest complaint upon the subject or upon any other that I know of.

6684. When your land was surveyed and the tenants were given each an allotment, had they also allotted to them a portion of mountain sufficient for the stock they then possessed?—Certainly.

6685. In addition to what was separately allotted, they had the right of grazing on a certain portion of the mountain?—Yes.

6686. Was it a portion sufficient for their wants, considering the state of their stock at the time?—I was told so by competent judges, and I had no other wish; if they had not enough they should have had more, and no man since that time has ever said that he had not sufficient grazing.

6687. Is the Committee to understand, that having allotted them a sufficient quantity for the grazing of those people to whom land was allotted according to their stock at the time, the remainder of the mountain remained in your own hand from that time to the present, and has been, in point of fact, enjoyed beneficially by your Lordship?—It has, and I have a right to do with it what I please; to give it to them or to let it to others.

6688. Had your tenants found fault with that arrangement, or interfered with it up to last year?—I never heard a word about it from any one of them.

6689. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] They have not, up to this very time, complained to you upon this subject?—Never.

6690. Mr. *Dobbs.*] When they have been in want at different times, have they been in the habit of writing to you?—Always. If I am there, they come to me; if I am not there, they apply to my agent, or sub-agent, who have full power to relieve them; they are welcome to write to me, and I always answer their letters with as much attention as if you or any other gentleman wrote to me. I encourage them to do it.

6691. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] That is, you write to the tenants themselves, and not through your agents?—I write to the tenants, and I write to my agents to attend to them.

6692. Mr. *Dobbs.*] During the famine year, I need hardly ask if your Lordship attended to them?—I did, to the utmost of my power.

6693. Were there any deaths upon your property?—None from starvation, I am happy to say.

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6694. I believe the rents were raised by Mr. Montgomery in his survey about the year 1840?—They were, but the new rent was not asked until 1854.

6695. The first year that the rents were raised, did a deputation wait upon you with regard to paying the increased rent?—A deputation waited upon me in 1854 from the tenants to say that the potato crop was not as good as in previous years, and that they hoped I would not press them for the new rent; I consulted my agent upon the subject, and we agreed that the new rent should be asked from them, deducting one-third. They said that, if I did so, they would pay the new rent cheerfully the next year.

6696. Have they paid it since?—They have.

6697. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Have they paid it cheerfully?—No; there was some demur when it was asked.

6698. And you have not been obliged to resort to ejection?—Not at all; but there was a police force brought by the stipendiary magistrate, Mr. Cruise, and then they paid the rents.

6699. Mr. *Dobbs.*] When did you last visit Gweedore?—I went there for a couple of days in May last.

6700. You had not been there for some time previously, I believe?—I had not been there for a year, because there were outrages committed by the tenants, and though I repeatedly went down to them and spoke to them, and tried to make them see that it was their duty to discover the perpetrators of those outrages, I never could get any satisfaction from them; and I told them that they need not expect to see me again, but that I should leave them to the police authorities.

6701. When you visited them last May, did you see any appearance of destitution, as far as you were aware?—I did not see any appearance of destitution.

6702. Did they appear to be better or worse off than they had been previously?—Those I saw were looking much in their usual state. I spoke to some of them, and to one particularly poor man with whom I am acquainted I said, "I am happy to see you looking so well."

6703. What was his name?—This was Andrew Carroll; for I had read sad stories of the condition of the people; and his answer to me was, "I wish there was an end of this business, for it is scandalous."

6704. Did you find on inquiry at the store that there had been any export of oats during the present year?—I found that 100 tons of oats had been exported from the store, for there was no demand for meal. The merchant at the store, Mr. Keown, had then a hundred tons of Indian meal lying on his hands, for which he said there was no demand.

6705. Did you inquire as to the sales at the shop during the last year or two?—I did not; but I asked him, so far, whether he was doing well, and he said he could not complain.

6706. Did you inquire of anyone the price of potatoes at the time?—I did; they were 3 *d.* per stone; 2 *s.* per cwt.

6707. Do you know what quantity of oats has been purchased at the hotel, for horses?—Yes; my steward at the hotel had purchased 40 *l.* worth of oats.

6708. At what time?—Last April; to lay in as a stock.

6709. Have you ever taken any land in the different arrangements, with regard to your property, from any tenant, without paying for the goodwill, or, as it is called in that country, the usual tenant-right?—Never. I mentioned the case of Bryan Boyle; I would now mention the other, which was stated by Thomas M'Bride. He said that the site upon which I had built the store at Bunbeg I had taken from James Gallagher, who held the fishery and farm of Bunbeg, and that I had taken it from him without remuneration. This man was a very friendly person, and the moment I mentioned to him that I wished to build the store there he offered me a garden, as it may be called, in which he grew willows, to build it on. It was a very small portion of land amongst the rocks. I asked what I should give him for it, and he said it was not worth mentioning, particularly as the benefit would be great to the country. After a few years he and his brother, Edward Gallagher, wished to part with the fishery and townland of Bunbeg, which, I think, contains about 60 acres, and for that I gave them 300 *l.* each; so that I think I paid for the willow garden.

6710. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Those Gallaghers had no lease, had they?—They had no lease; they were tenants at will. James Gallagher is now in America, and the other is dead.

6711. Mr. *Dobbs.*] They were tenants from year to year at that time, were they not?—They were.

6712. It was stated by one witness that there was a man named Paddy O'Donnell, and that your Lordship refused to give him a lease, unless there was a condition inserted in it, that he should not set up a shop. What are the facts with regard to that case?—I think the witness who stated that, said that I would give a lease to Paddy O'Donnell, in Derrybeg, upon condition that he did not keep a shop. It is not properly stated. Paddy O'Donnell lived in a mountainous townland, called Meenanillar. He had built a good house there, and had about 30 acres of land surrounding it. I offered him a lease on account of the goodness of the house; he took the draft of it, and I have never heard more from him upon the subject. One of the conditions of that lease was, that he should not keep a shop in this house, in Meenanillar, because I wanted the land to be reclaimed, and I wanted him to devote himself to farming occupation; but he grew tired of this, and gave it up to his brother and went to Derrybeg, where he built another house, and now keeps a shop; and I have never done anything to prevent his keeping it.

6713. Does he live in Derrybeg now, and keep a shop there?—Yes, and his brother is in possession of his place in Meenanillar.

6714. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Is it the fact or not, that your Lordship threatened or caused to be threatened one Margaret Sweeney with notice to quit, for having a tenant who was going to set up a bakery in rivalry with your own?—I noticed her to quit if she did not send away the baker, and the facts are these. Soon after I got the property, the same James Gallagher of Bunbeg, and also Bryan M'Gee of Derrybeg, each, in their turn, set up a bakery, and each failed, and said they had lost a great deal of money by it. I then procured a man from Aberdeen and set him up in the bakery; and as soon as this man had been set up, Margaret Sweeney or Sharkey brought a stranger in to divide her house with her, and to bake, and I therefore prevented him.

6715. Your objection was to dividing the house?—Yes, and bringing in a stranger.

6716. Ought M'Bride to have known that fact?—He should have known it.

6717. Then if he stated that he not only did not know the fact, but that he was sure that you had another motive, he stated what was untrue?—He chose to account for my motives, which he had no right to do.

6718. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Now take Craig's case?—The case of Craig, of Derrybeg, was the same kind of thing. After the shop at Bunbeg had been set up, for there was no cloth sold in the district when I came there, or anything else of the kind worth mentioning, Craig wished to give part of his house to a Mr. M'Fadden, of Cross Roads, to keep a shop in, and he put in a shop window. I sent him word he must not bring in a stranger, or divide his house, and he said that he thought it was a hard case, as he had been put to the expense of making an improvement to the house for the purpose. I therefore inquired into the expense that he had been put to, and I paid him whatever it was, 15 *s.* or 20 *s.*, as far as I recollect, and that is the whole history of those two persons.

6719. It was also stated that you prevented a man, called Paddy Mulligan, from setting up a public-house?—I did.

6720. I believe it was stated that he was evicted by you in consequence?—He was.

6721. Will you have the kindness to state to the Committee the facts of that case?—Paddy Mulligan lived in a small house off the high road in the townland of Lunnaigh; there was a great deal, and always has been a great deal, of illicit distillation in the country. I knew very well that this was a mere excuse to have what is called a shebeen house, and to sell illicit spirits in it. I therefore sent him word that I would not allow of his keeping a public-house. However, he took steps to obtain a license without my knowledge.

6722. Where did he obtain the license?—At the Buncrana sessions.

6723. How far off is that?—It is on the other side of Lough Swilly, 30 miles off.

6724. He got a license at a distant quarter sessions?—Yes; I therefore was obliged to evict him; and when he was put out, as there was still some time before his license would end, I believe he sold the remainder of his stock in some gravel-hole; so I was told.

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6725. Having a license to sell it?—Yes; he did so, as long as his license lasted. Having attained my object, I restored him after a few months to his small holding. I think that the rent that he paid me was 4*s.* a year, and I restored him to this holding, as he had two girls. He was a widower, and their mother had brought him this bit of land, so I thought they would be losers by it, and therefore I restored him.

6726. Is he there now?—Yes.

6727. And he has been there ever since?—He has been there ever since.

6728. I believe that the Roman-catholic clergyman that was there before the present one held the house in which he lived from you?—He did.

6729. Did he pay rent for it?—He did.

6730. How much did he pay?—He paid me 5*l.* a year; it was a thatched cabin that he lived in.

6731. Was there an addition made to that house?—There was; after I had purchased the lease from Mr. O'Friel, Mr. M'Fadden's predecessor, I made great improvements to the house, and built offices, and slated the house, so as to put it in a comfortable condition.

6732. What rent, then, did Mr. M'Fadden pay for it?—He was to pay 8*l.* a year for it; the improvements cost me more than 100*l.* and the lease 75*l.*

6733. Mr. Doherty had it afterwards, had he not?—Mr. Doherty had it afterwards.

6734. Has Mr. Doherty left the parish now?—He has now left the parish.

6735. Who is in possession of the house?—He has put in Mr. M'Gee, I am told, but Mr. Doherty has not yet paid his own rent.

6736. Is Mr. M'Gee in possession of that house now?—I am told so.

6737. Do you know how much rent is due upon it?—I think one year's rent.

6738. Do you know anything of the habits of the people as to using the sea-weed?—I can only speak generally about it; that I know they do use the sea-weed, both sloake, dillosk, and carragheen; and when I am in the country, not a day passes that my children do not eat the carragheen, and also sloake, if they can get it.

6739. Do you know anything of this dolamaun which has been mentioned to the Committee?—I do not.

6740. As to the dress of the people in that district, what is the condition of the people?—The dress of the people is generally of their own manufacture.

6741. Is there anything peculiar about it?—The men very seldom wear coats; generally waistcoats with flannel sleeves; and it is a remarkable thing, for in the south, where the climate is milder, they wear very heavy coats.

6742. How are the women clad in that district?—The women wear also home manufacture in general, a stuff called tammy, made of wool, a very warm and excellent wear; and I cannot call to mind ever having seen a woman dressed in a way in which decency would forbid her to be dressed.

6743. When you were there last May did the people appear to be worse or better off in their dress, or was there any change from what you had been accustomed to see?—No; those I saw were much the same as I had ever seen. As to their bedding, it is certainly very rough; they pay very little attention to those kind of comforts, and however rich they may be, they would not lay out their money willingly upon such things; they make excellent blankets themselves, and where they can afford it they keep them for their own use. Upon the occasion of the premiums that I have given, I have seen remarkably nice beds and other things belonging to household furniture, which, if they did not hide them, I think would be found with a great many of them at this present moment.

6744. How are they off for fuel on your property?—Very well off; the turf is excellent, and no charge is made to them for it.

6745. They have no charge for turf beyond the rent of their different holdings?—None.

6746. Is there any duty work upon your property?—None, and there never was.

6747. Has any payment ever been required for their taking sea-weed on the shore, or using it?—None at all.

6748. Not for any purpose?—Not at all.

6749. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Can you give the Committee a comparative statement of the condition of the district some years ago, and its present condition?—I can,

I can, if the Committee will allow me to refer to the printed paper which I hold in my hand; concerning the roads and the bridges, which were in 1838 not passable, in 1850 they were excellent, and they are so now; there was no progress in agriculture, and I believe I may say that upwards of 600 acres have been reclaimed since the land has been brought out of rundale; there was no post-office nearer than 10 or 12 miles, at Falcarragh; now there are two in the district, and a mail car runs daily; there was only a very primitive corn mill then, which was incapable of cleaning the corn or sifting the meal; the one I have put up is a first rate one. There was no baker or bread within 12 miles of Falcarragh; now there is a very good baker, whose sales amount to upwards of 200*l.* annually. Then there was nothing like a shop in the district; now there is an extensive shop at Bunbeg, at which all necessaries can be purchased at a reasonable price, besides 16 small shops that the people have set up upon my property; it having been asserted by witnesses that I prevented the keeping of shops, I wish to state that particularly.

6750. Do you mean that there are 16 small shops in the district where formerly there was not one?—Yes; at that time there were no carts; now, I think there are 32 on my property. Mr. Sharman Crawford stated that the roads were not particularly good, and that even if they were good they would be of no service, as there was no traffic. I think that every Thursday, the day previous to Letterkenny market, 12 or 14 carts can be seen going along the road to Letterkenny. I have counted them myself frequently. In 1838 there was no dispensary nearer than 10 miles; now there is one at Bunbeg where a medical man attends weekly. No hay could be purchased nearer than Cross-roads, and I have had to send carts over to Cross-roads for hay for my horses. Now on my model farm at the Gweedore Hotel, there is a produce of 60 or 70 tons of hay annually. On this land, when I began to cultivate, tenants used to come and look on with wonder, and say, I was very silly to attempt to do anything with that land; that it would not produce anything; they have frequently told me so. There was but little butter fit to eat, and only in small crocks or earthen vessels; now good market butter is put up in wooden vessels, an improvement which is due to those premiums which have been offered; for the women are very industrious, and are anxious to improve in their manufactures; and they are very much improved in stocking making, for when I first went there, there could not a pair of stockings or socks be procured with two feet alike; it is now an immense trade; there are two houses in London who supply themselves chiefly with knitted stockings from that district, as well as houses in Dublin, and during the Crimean war we furnished the South Down Militia and the 60th Rifles with a great portion of their socks. The sales of stockings have amounted to 500*l.* or 600*l.* annually.

6751. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You introduced stocking merchants there, did you not?—Yes.

6752. And you opened a communication with London houses?—Yes; London, Dublin, Inverness, and Birmingham, and many other places.

6753. Are you aware yourself whether the sale of stockings has increased or decreased within the last two or three years?—Very much increased. I would also state that there was not a boat pier even on the coast, and now at the quay or landing-place at Bunbeg, which I have mentioned, large vessels can come up. The anchorage under Gola Island was unknown, but vessels can now be chartered for Bunbeg and Gweedore from any other port, and kelp is shipped from Bunbeg. The rent formerly was very irregularly paid and very difficult to collect, now it is regularly paid. The tenants are also very much improved in their habits. Very often if a man had 10*s.* to pay of rent he would pretend that he had only 9*s.*, and when the rent was refused by the agent he would take 1*s.* out of his mouth or out of his shoe. We have nothing of that sort now; the people know that we wish to deal fairly with them, and the tenants have very often said to me that had it not been for my exertions they were well aware they would long ago have been obliged to leave the district. As to their wishing to emigrate, a few young people emigrate yearly to join their relations in America and Australia, but nothing beyond that; and to show their attachment to the place, and that it is not the wretched district that has been represented, persons return both from America and from Australia. An old couple went about two years ago to America and stayed there six months, and said they "thought long," and therefore returned to Gweedore. A man named Charles Coll, who had resided at Sydney, I think it was, for some years, came and settled at Gweedore, his birth-place; he remained

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there for some years, and he left it the year before last again to return to Sydney. I was not there at the time, but he left me his blessing, and said he hoped to see me again in five or six years. I mention that to show that it is not that frightful place that it has been represented to be.

6754. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Is it true that you discharged Thomas Hugh M'Bride for refusing to collect the tax?—It is true that I discharged M'Bride, because I considered him an unfaithful servant.

6755. Did he ever tell you that your tenants were gradually falling into poverty?—Never, and he never said that he would not collect the tax, because the tenants were not able to pay it; but he said that he would not think of doing so, because he was afraid of his life.

6756. At question 841, Hugh M'Bride was asked, "You had not observed any diminution in their stock of cattle before the summer of 1857? There was a diminution since the rents were raised, and the mountains taken away.—Was there a gradual diminution? Yes.—Did you find them less able to pay their rent? I did; I thought that they would not be able to pay it at all.—And did you communicate that to Lord George Hill? I did; I had a letter from Lord George Hill." Is it true that he told you, that they were gradually falling into poverty?—I never recollect hearing such a thing from him.

6757. Is it true that you allow nothing when the sand encroaches on a farm, and that one man wished to give up his farm under such circumstances, and you forced him to hold it?—I do not recollect any one offering to give up his farm under such circumstances, and I have tried repeatedly to make them keep their cattle off the sand hills, because I wished to plant bent upon them to stop the blowing sand; but it was impossible to get them to pay any attention to it. It has also been said, that no encouragement has been given on those new cuts. I have here a premium list which was offered in 1857, when those new cuts of Carrick and Lunneagh were made. "Premium for the best half acre put under crop since November 1856, 1 *l.*; second best, 15 *s.*; third best, 10 *s.* For the best rood put under crop since November 1856, 15 *s.*; second best, 10 *s.*; third best, 5 *s.* For the best half rood under crop since November 1856, 10 *s.*; second best, 7 *s.* 6 *d.*," and so on.

6758. Lord *Naas.*] Did they compete for those premiums?—They have never touched the land.

6759. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] It is said that you collected your rents earlier last year than usual; do you wish to say anything to the Committee about that?—The rents are always collected in November.

6760. It was stated that you took it for some purpose earlier than usual?—The rents were asked for on the 1st, and paid before the 10th, so I was told.

6761. They are not usually asked for till December, are they?—November is the time that they are usually asked for. I do not collect my own rents, and I regret exceedingly that my very able and excellent agent, Mr. Forster, is lying dangerously ill, or else he would come before the Committee; but I have my sub-agent, who will give every information on statistics that you may wish to ask.

6762. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Have those proceedings that have been lately going on interrupted the good feeling at all between tenant and landlord?—I cannot say that I know of any, except that I told them that I would not come amongst them unless they behaved themselves better, and discontinued those outrages.

6763. You have not been much amongst them last year?—There were threatening notices stuck up in the Gweedore hotel, threatening my agent, and threatening all gentlemen who should attend there.

6764. Did you receive any threatening notices yourself?—I have received a threatening letter myself.

6765. Threatening your life?—Threatening my life, unless I did justice to my tenants; and I have nothing to reproach myself with in that way; I have done them full justice.

6766. *Chairman.*] When did you receive that threatening letter; was it before or since this Parliamentary inquiry?—It was last year, I think; in the beginning of May; May twelvemonth.

6767. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] It was after the Scotchman took the mountains, was it not?—It was; it was after the Scotch farmer took the mountains.

6768. Have you in the course of the number of years since you purchased the

the property ever ejected any tenants, except the one you mentioned?—I have never ejected any one.

6769. Your object has been always to foster the people, and to make them independent through their own resources?—My object has been to enable them to live on the land which they occupy, and to make them as comfortable on the land as I could. I have never done anything to make them think that I wished to get rid of them; quite the reverse.

6770. With that view you spent many years of your rent upon that wild district?—About twenty years.

6771. And you have spent a large sum of money independently of your rent?—I have.

6772. Mr. *Dobbs.*] In allotting the new lots that were mentioned, have you given them to the sons and relatives of your other tenants, or have you given them to strangers?—In those townlands of Carrick and Lunniagh which were alluded to, they have been given to the sons of tenants; the tenants of those townlands frequently asked me to divide that portion of the bog amongst them, to give them room; otherwise they would divide their now already too small portions into smaller lots, and would return to rundale again if they were allowed to do so; and a little map, which there is if any member of the Committee would wish to refer to, and which Colonel Kennedy kindly allowed me to publish in those "Facts from Gweedore," will show the nature of the cuts, and how the people would wish them to be made. I was blamed by some of the witnesses for making them so long and narrow, and they certainly appear ridiculous upon the map; but it should be understood that the townland is divided amongst a certain number of people, and that the object was in dividing it to give each man his proper share in this townland. It was divided by lines from top to bottom, and what I wished to do was to have cut them across, and have given each a square farm; but the tenants are so jealous of each other, and of their rights of the sea-shore, that they would not be satisfied unless they could all travel from top to bottom, and some of them are really only the breadth of the high road. The only way of reforming this abuse is, that where a tenant takes another farm or leaves the country, I oblige his next neighbour to take his farm, and so to make them larger, and we have in that way got rid of a great many of those narrow cuts in Magheraclogher, Middletown, and other places.

6773. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Have you many people residing upon your property who do not hold land?—None that I am aware of; I think I know one of the name of M'Illia, who sold his house and land.

6774. And are all your tenants holding land?—Yes.

6775. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do you wish to make any other statement to the Committee?—I would wish to refer to a petition which was presented to the House, and rejected in the year 1857, because there are in it slanderous allegations against me, and being brought before the public, and the private management of my property being gone into and sifted very minutely, I should be glad to clear my character of those aspersions.

6776. Is there any statement in that petition with regard to which you wish to make an answering statement to the Committee?—Yes.

6777. Will you be kind enough to state what you wish to say to the Committee on that subject?—It is stated as one of the charges against me, that notwithstanding the incredible misery and suffering of the people (I suppose that alludes to the time of famine), the rents charged upon those farms were paid, and during all this fearful period no agrarian or other crime existed in the district. I beg to say, that I excused my tenants a whole year's rent; it was never asked for by me.

6778. That was in the famine year?—Yes; and again, the petition states, "That the landlords, who are the only magistrates in the district, have with one exception entered into a combination to oppress, rack-rent, harass by taxation, and by a corrupt administration of the law and other means, your memorialists from the face of the earth, to make way for sheep. Your unhappy memorialists are confirmed in this belief by the following facts:—The mountains round their farms have been taken from them." "They are now reduced to misery, and are oppressed by rents and taxes enforced by their landlords, who are also the administrators of the law." "At the head of this combination of landlord magistrates is Lord George Hill, and he has taken from your memorialists," in different town lands mentioned, lands and so on. I beg to say that I never have held the

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commission of the peace for that county, or for any other; I declined it at first, because I thought it better that others should administer justice among my tenants, and of late years my health has not been very strong, and I was obliged to decline the honour when it was offered me, otherwise I should have been too happy to have assisted those gentlemen, who are my neighbours. And they say that my rents are collected by armed bailiffs; I never armed any bailiff beyond giving a gun to this very Hugh M'Bride, who told me he did not think he was safe in his house, and he had a permit for keeping a gun in his house, but not for carrying arms. Then it is stated that the townland of Meenderryamph was "taken into his possession without any honest recompense to the tenants;" I believe I have shown that I have not deprived any tenant of his land. He has built an hotel, they say, "for the convenience of his agent and travellers, and as a speculation: persons deluded by printed statements circulated by him from time to time have been put to the trouble and expense of visiting this wild barren locality." Now, I beg to say that I built this hotel for my convenience and the convenience of my agent and for the public in general, and I have a large volume which I caused to be brought over, called the "Travellers' Book," from the year 1842 to last year, and it contains whatever the travellers choose to say. I never saw anything in it stating that I had deluded them; they never reproached me with committing fraud upon them; they said, on the contrary, they were always charmed with the locality, and also with the improvements I had made; therefore, this is another false statement. "He has engrossed and kept the little trade of the district in his hands, and to protect his monopoly he crushes improvement and enterprise wherever it appears. He has threatened, in one instance, a poor woman named Margaret Sharkey," and so on. I think I have proved to the Committee that I did not crush the traders; on the contrary, I wish well to every man, and wish to assist the people in doing their best for themselves, I do not care who they are, so long as they are on the property. Then the petition goes on to say, that "the other proprietors in this believed combination for the purpose of exterminating your memorialists have closely followed the example and leadership of his Lordship; like him, they have acted with avarice, without forbearance or mercy." I am sure that the Committee will give me credit for not having the slightest intention of putting out a single person, or driving those poor people from the property; that they have been the sole care of my life; and as I am accused of being so very avaricious and hard-hearted, I think it right even to go into my private affairs, and to state so, that the British public may know through the press that I am not the person represented by this petition, for I have had to borrow above 2,000 *l.* since the famine to carry out those improvements at Gweedore. I live with my family in a small house which I built, upon a small farm, in order to enable me to attend and overlook those improvements; we live in a most frugal manner, and if I get to the end of the year, able to pay the calls upon me, I thank God that I have done so. That is my avarice.

Jovis, 24° die Junii, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bagwell.
Sir John Yarde Buller.
Mr. Sergent Deasy.
Mr. Dobbs.
Sir Edmund Hayes.
Mr. Maguire.
Mr. P. Wykeham Martin.
Lord Naas.
Sir William Somerville.

JOHN BAGWELL, ESQUIRE, IN THE CHAIR.

Lord *George Hill*, further Examined.

6779. Mr. *Maguire*.] YOUR Lordship stated very truly that you had built a store at Bunbeg at your own expense, and had improved the tenantry, and done a variety of things there; is that store let at the present moment?—It is.

6780. At what rent?—At a rent of 30 *l*. a year for the store and shop.

6781. What is the Government valuation of the store?—I do not recollect.

6782. Is it 25 *l*?—I do not know.

6783. I think you said that vessels of 150 tons burden can come up to the quay now?—They can; I think we had a vessel from St. John's with timber some years ago of that tonnage.

6784. Is it a free harbour, or is there any charge upon the shipping coming into it?—There is a charge for keeping the harbour in repair; I think it is 2 *d*. a ton.

6785. Your Lordship built a corn-mill, and I think you stated that you ground 688 tons of Indian corn in the time of the famine?—I think I did.

6786. What is the charge for each ton of Indian corn?—The Government paid me 1 *l*. a ton.

6787. That was a fair rate of payment, was it?—Yes, I was quite satisfied with it. I believe at Sligo they paid 30 *s*.

6788. You built some cottages at Bunbeg, did you not?— I did.

6789. I think that you built, amongst other cottages, some for the coast-guard?—I built five for the coast-guard station.

6790. And are those let?—They are.

6791. Paying a fair rental?—They paid a regulation.

6792. What was the extent of the mountain pasturage taken from your Lordship's tenants; was it 13,500 acres?—I think, when the surveyor divided the property, and brought the land out of rundale, there were about 12,000 acres cut off, and called my share; there may have been a few more or less.

6793. Sir *Edmund Hayes*.] That was in the year 1841, was it not?—1840–41.

6794. Mr. *Maguire*.] Was there no mountain pasturage taken away from your lordship's tenants since 1841?—None.

6795. Was there none in latter years?—None; it is exactly the same as it was then.

6796. From 1841?—Exactly.

6797. And you say that you took it into your own hands practically in 1841?—Yes. I think that the preparing of the valuation was not complete under three years; I think it was from 1840 to 1843; it was about that time.

6798. Had the tenants practically the privilege of sending their cattle upon that mountain from the year 1843 to the year 1853 or 1854?—Upon what was called the landlord's share, do you mean?

6799. Upon the 12,000 acres of which your Lordship speaks?—I kept herds upon parts of them, and the tenants were aware of what had been publicly cut off to me; for, as I said yesterday, they assisted in the divisions, and, as I think

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Serjeant Thompson proved; the tenants told him, when he went to collect agricultural statistics, that they had nothing to do with the mountains, but that he was to apply to Lord George Hill.

6800. Without minding what the serjeant said, will you state whether it is the fact that, practically (whether you ignored the right of the people or not to the grazing of this mountain) they did use the mountain from the year 1843 till the year 1853 or 1854?—They certainly did not, for they were mine, and I paid herds upon them.

6801. Were the people fined for trespass up to the year 1853 on those 12,000 acres of mountain?—They were, in several instances; we have taken large quantities of sheep and pounded them for trespass upon my mountains.

6802. When did you first put cattle upon those 12,000 acres of mountain which you reserve?—Immediately, I think; and I appointed herds.

6803. What is the meaning of this passage in an affidavit which was sworn, I think in the year 1855, in the Court of Queen's Bench, by Lord George Hill: "Saith, that in the year 1855 deponent placed some sheep and cattle on portions of the Gweedore mountains, where they were not wanted by deponent's tenantry, and deponent saith, not liking the trouble incident to taking care of sheep or letting said mountain for grazing, deponent let portions of the said mountains to Mr. Huggup, of Northumberland, farmer"?—That is quite true. I took in grazing cattle from the neighbourhood of Letterkenny and Ramelton, and other places; and I did not like the trouble of doing this, and therefore I let those mountains to a sheep farmer.

6804. What I want to get from your Lordship is this: had the people practically the use of those mountains up to the year 1853 or the year 1854?—Certainly not.

6805. You positively deny that the people did use those mountains, whether rightly or wrongly, up to the year 1853 or 1854?—I deny it.

6806. Except in the case of Tor mountain?—Not at all excepting Tor mountain, for I have impounded, and I have seen the sheep driven myself from Tor mountain.

6807. I say except in the case of Tor?—I did not understand the question.

6808. Except in the case of Tor, did the people practically use the mountains up to the year 1853 or 1854?—No; Glenthornan and other mountains were grazed in the same way by me, and they were herded.

6809. Does the same remark apply to the mountain of Meenanillar; did the people use that mountain?—Meenanillar was also herded.

6810. Was it strictly preserved?—I do not know whether it was strictly preserved, but it was part of my share, as you will see on my maps, which was cut off to me publicly in the years 1840 to 1843.

6811. If the cattle of the tenantry strayed upon that mountain up to the year 1853, were they impounded for so doing?—I cannot recollect whether that happened on that particular mountain; very likely my sub-agent will be able to tell the Committee.

6812. I think you said that you increased the rents upon the land in the occupation of the tenants; when was that done?—In 1854.

6813. I think your Lordship made a statement that your rents were under the Government valuation; is your Lordship accurate in that statement?—I intended to be accurate; I said that I thought they were rather under the new tenement valuation. I think my rents are in four cases in excess of the tenement valuation; some of them are under, but the average is what I say.

6814. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Are they much in excess?—No, not much.

6815. Lord *Naas.*] Which valuation do you allude to?—The new tenement valuation.

6816. Mr. *Maguire.*] The townland of Carrick is a portion of your Lordship's property, is it not?—It is.

6817. I am not going to the old valuation, but I am coming to the new valuation; I begin with Dore; what is the valuation of that townland?—I have not any statistics, as I do not receive my rents, and am not therefore prepared to state that; but my agent will answer every question on that point.

6818. Does your Lordship adhere to that assertion, upon reflection, that your rents are lower than the Government valuation, or the contrary?—Yes, that is what I have told you; upon the whole, some are a little higher and some a little lower;

lower; I only know that a single tenant has never complained to me of his rent.

6819. What increase has there been in the new rental over the old rental, do you know that; have you statistics in reference to that?—I have not statistics in reference to that.

6820. I think your Lordship said that you paid the poor-rate for your tenantry?—I do.

6821. What is the average annual valuation of your tenantry?—I do not recollect.

6822. Are they under 4 *l.*?—A great part are under; there are very few who exceed 4 *l.*

6823. Would your Lordship take any peculiar credit to yourself for not charging the poor-rates to the occupiers who are valued under 4 *l.*?—No; I merely state it as a fact; it is no great credit; there may be seven or eight, or nine or ten; I do not want them to be tormented by tax gatherers.

6824. May I ask, where is the grazing now left for the tenantry of the townland of Magheraclogher and Cotteen; is that near their doors?—No, in a great measure it is not.

6825. Is it two or three miles distant?—Not that I know of, but I could not point it out here; the Committee will get those particulars from my agent as to where it is; but no tenant has even told me that he had not sufficient grazing, or that it was too far distant.

6826. Is the mountain commonage reserved to the tenants marked out by fences or boundaries, so as to prevent the cattle straying and becoming liable to be impounded?—It is not; for, owing to the outrages which have been perpetrated, we have not had any opportunity of doing any of those things since the sheep farmer took the mountain.

6827. May I ask your Lordship, have you that boundary marked and defined?—It is not ditched, but there are marks and bounds which are known to the tenants; for, as I said before, they assisted in those divisions.

6828. I want to know, has not that reserved portion for the tenantry been given to them or allowed to them for the last 12 years; you say that they had no right of grazing on any other portion save that for the last 12 years, since 1841, 17 years ago?—I do not understand the question.

6829. I think you said that, save a certain portion of mountain, the people had no right of sending their cattle on any other portion since 1841?—They had no right to come upon what was called the landlord's share.

6830. What steps have you taken since 1841 to mark substantially the boundary of the part allotted to the people, and thus prevent the cattle from straying on the forbidden portion, and rendering them liable to be impounded?—I think I said before that I had taken no steps, because the tenants had assisted themselves, and they knew their bounds, but that since the sheep farmer took the mountain I have had no opportunity, from the disorganised state of the country, to ditch it, or to form regular boundaries.

6831. I thought your Lordship said that, in case there was a trespass from 1843 to 1853, the cattle of the people were liable to be impounded for that trespass?—They were.

6832. What steps did your Lordship take to preserve this mountain, which you reserved to yourself, from being trespassed upon by the people?—When the cattle or sheep were found upon them by those employed by me, they impounded them; and a witness who was produced here, Hugh M'Bride, is one of the persons who has frequently assisted in doing so. He was pound-keeper with his father, and impounded them.

6833. Were the cattle restored to the people without paying the fine?—Sometimes. I know I excused a great number once. There were on one occasion, I think, from 500 to 600 sheep driven off the mountain of Tor to the pound. I was near the pound myself at the time. The people came and promised that such a thing should never occur again, and I forgave them, and they drove their sheep home.

6834. I am now talking of the mountain of Meenanillar; and I ask you whether the cattle of the people trespassing on the Meenanillar mountain would render their owners liable to fine for that trespass?—Certainly they would be fined, if they were on my share.

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6835. What steps did your Lordship take, even before those so-called outrages, to protect the cattle of the people from straying on other land, and therefore rendering their owners liable to fine?—I took no further steps than had been taken.

6836. You did not build a fence?—I did not.

6837. I think you said that you gave premiums for clean houses; may I ask how many owners of houses generally competed for those prizes?—I could not say on every occasion; but I have a list here of some who got premiums.

6838. I am confining myself entirely to the premiums for clean houses?—Yes, for the neatest and cleanest of the premium cottages, in 1845, eight persons competed.

6839. Would your Lordship give the names of the persons who competed that year?—Pat Mulligan, of Magheraclogher; Paddy O'Donnell, of Meenanillar, who got the first prize of 1 *l.* 10*s.*; Charles M'Bride, of Middletown, who keeps a shop, the third premium, 15*s.*; Shervis M'Bride, Middletown, is another competitor; he kept a shop, and he is now dead; Edward Diver, of Magheraclogher, fourth premium, 10*s.*; Daniel Gillespie, of Stradabrewey, second premium, 1 *l.*; Hugh Donnel, of Magheraclogher, who keeps a very neat public house, which has much improved under those premiums; and James Gallagher, Cottean.

6840. The following year, could you say how many competed for those prizes?—I am afraid I cannot tell. If you will allow me, I have a few more here of the same year. For the best, neatest, and cleanest cottages built on one of the new farms since September 1845, Dominic Gallagher, of Meenanillar, first premium, 3 *l.*; John Mooney, of Meenanillar, second premium, 2 *l.*; John Gallagher, of Meenanillar, received a third premium of 1 *l.* 10*s.* Then follows for the best pigstye, and then for the best stable and cowhouse, for I have always endeavoured to induce them to have cowhouses, and not keep their cattle in their houses.

6841. Is it the fact, that nearly the same people competed every year?—Certainly not; but the person who got a premium for a new cabin this year might compete for the cleanest house next year, to insure its being kept up.

6842. Did they do so?—Many did, but I have not here the names.

6843. I think you said that you gave 600 *l.* as compensation to tenants named Gallagher, of Bunbeg?—I did, to Edward Gallagher and James Gallagher; they held the salmon fishery, and I think about 60 acres.

6844. May I ask is that salmon fishery let at the present moment?—It is, to Mr. Daniel.

6845. At a fair rent?—I think it is; he would not take it unless he considered it fair.

6846. I mean a fair rent to you?—No, it is not too much.

6847. May I ask what it is?—£. 120 a year.

6848. What was the amount of compensation given by you to those people, the Gallaghers?—£. 300 each.

6849. Had not they a lease at a nominal rent of this salmon fishery?—No.

6850. I think you stated that you were obliged to obtain a force of police for the purpose of compelling the people to pay their increased rents; is that the fact?—The force of police was brought there. I did not ask for it; the stipendiary magistrate, Mr. Cruise, I believe, brought them.

6851. Was not there some objection to the increase of rent on the part of the people?—I think I said that in 1854 I agreed to reduce their rents for that year one-third, but that the next year they must pay the new rent, and they said they would do so most willingly; but when they were asked for it, they refused to do so, and my agent informed me that steps were taken to oblige them to pay the rent, and they paid it in a remarkably short time.

6852. Are those tenants tenants-at-will, or have they leases?—They are all tenants-at-will, with one exception; I believe there is one lease.

6853. I want some information in reference to the very lucrative trade in stockings, of which your Lordship spoke; I think you said that something between 500 *l.* and 600 *l.* worth is annually sent to London or Dublin, or at any rate that that quantity is bought in Bunbeg?—Of late years it has amounted to a very large sum. I introduced the trade from the very beginning of my possession there. I brought patterns from London, and gave premiums; I have a list here, and I see the same premiums given for the encouragement of that trade, and I was in the

the habit of buying stockings myself and inspecting them, not only of buying them myself, but packing them myself, for some years.

6854. Do you speak of worsted stockings?—No, of woollen stockings.

6855. You say that you introduced the trade into the district?—I did.

6856. Did your Lordship know that there was a very large trader in stockings in the district, and that a considerable number of stocking merchants were in the habit of visiting the Dunloe fair every month, for the purpose of purchasing the stockings brought in by the people of the district?—Of course they may do that, but if you were to see the socks that they purchase, and the socks that I purchase, you would find that they were very different articles; the socks that they generally purchase are what are called single yarn, which they send to America, but the socks that I purchase are double yarn, and even more than double yarn.

6857. Is it not the fact that a very large trade in stockings was carried on in the district before you introduced this improved manufacture?—I do not know about its being a large trade, but I know that they were very bad articles; I do not recollect seeing a great many.

6858. Do you know to the contrary?—No, I could not positively say.

6859. Do you know that the people from Glenties and the people of your dis-district sold their stockings in Glenties, and in Letterkenny, and in Dunloe?—They sell them whereever they please; they need not sell them to me.

6860. They do not sell them now in this district, do they?—Yes, they constantly go to Dunloe. I know they do, and it was only the other day I was there, and I met one of my tenants, either in Derry or Letterkenny, with a bundle of stockings on his back.

6861. How many families have you upon your own property?—Between 500 and 600; towards 600.

6862. Are all those people in possession of their own wool, or are they compelled to purchase wool of others?—The greater part have the wool of their own.

6863. Are any large portion of those people obliged to purchase wool from others?—I should think not, certainly; the poorer ones are obliged to purchase.

6864. Even supposing they have this wool belonging to themselves, and that this 600 *l.*, which is the maximum, was spread over those 600 families, would you give the Committee some kind of idea what that would be a day to each family?—I have not the most remote idea; but here is an opening for industry; that is all I pretend to.

6865. Would it be more than a farthing a day to each family?—I should think so. The women come most eager to sell, and I have the pleasure to tell you, as I told you yesterday, that I have bought them myself, and have witnessed the anxiety of the women to sell them.

6866. Lord *Naas.*] Did you find that the people were really grateful for the trouble which you took in giving them those stockings to manufacture?—Yes; they were always on the most friendly terms; and, as I said yesterday, they have often said, "If it was not for you, we must long ago have left the country."

6867. Mr. *Maguire.*] Why do not people from the Rosses bring their stockings to Bunbeg?—Certainly, some attempts have been made, but I have always endeavoured to keep it entirely at Bunbeg, for my own tenants, as I have all the trouble, and not only the trouble, but the expense too, for they are sent at my expense to Derry to be shipped for London or Dublin, or wherever they are going.

6868. Is it the fact that strangers from the Rosses and elsewhere bring their stockings to Bunbeg to sell?—Very few, for the reason which I have given; I have prevented them.

6869. I think you said that the people were very much attached to their birth-place, and that not only very few people had emigrated, but that some of them have actually returned?—They have done so.

6870. Do you know that any people from your Lordship's property have emigrated and have not returned again?—Yes, young people.

6871. Has Condy Green, of Meenaduff, with his wife and family, gone to Australia?—I do not know.

6872. Has Manus Gallagher, with his wife and family?—I do not know.

6873. Charles Gallagher, of Magheraclogher, with his wife and child?—Very likely.

6874. And others have gone to Australia last year?—Very likely.

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6875. Do you know that Cormack Gallagher, of Magheraclogher, went to America last year?—I know that one Cormack Gallagher went out with his wife and returned, but I am not aware whether they are the same people as you mean.

6876. Do you know that James Boyle, of Upper Dore, with his wife and family, and Paddy Boyle, too, with his wife and family, Connell Peoples, with his wife and family, and John Connell, with his wife and family, endeavoured to go to Australia last year?—No; I saw Connell Peoples the other day, when I was there.

6877. Did he not make exertions, and apply to the agent at Derry to go?—I did not hear of that.

6878. Do you know that a man named Mickey Gallagher, of Stranacorcragh, and his family, Francis O'Donnell and wife, and Charles Gallagher and wife, of Tor, all emigrated with the Colls when they were going out?—I know that a Mickey O'Donnell went, but I do not know as to the others.

6879. Do you know that a man named Mickey Gallagher, one of those, wrote back to the people at home, and said that none should ever stop in Gweedore?—I do not.

6880. You were asked the reason why you dismissed Hugh McBride, and I think you stated that you considered him an unfaithful servant; my honourable friend near me did not ask you why you considered him so, and I must, in justice to that man's character, ask why did you consider him an unfaithful servant?—Because it was his duty as bailiff to exert himself in discovering the perpetrators of those outrages, and he never did so, or showed himself on the occasion at all forward to make any discovery upon the subject.

6881. That was the reason why you say that he was an unfaithful servant?—I think so; he had not my interest at heart; that is why I think he was an unfaithful servant.

6882. It was for no pecuniary speculations on his part?—Not at all.

6883. Lord *Naas.*] You discharged him because he did not give the authorities the assistance which you thought he was bound to give in discovering the perpetrators of those outrages?—Yes; he was of no use in that matter at all.

6884. Mr. *Maguire.*] Are there 260 police in the district?—I do not know.

6885. Is there not a large force in that district?—There is.

6886. Have they been able to discover the perpetrators?—I am glad to say that an arrest was made a short time ago, and that a man, one Thomas Coll, is in gaol, and I am told that there is evidence against him.

6887. Has he been tried yet?—He has not.

6888. The police have succeeded in making one arrest?—I mean lately; there were several arrests, and they had several prisoners.

6889. Have there been many perpetrators of the alleged outrages discovered by this large force of police?—Not many.

6890. Lord *Naas.*] When was Thomas Coll arrested; was it on the 12th of this month?—I do not know; it is quite lately.

6891. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Has any one been tried as yet for any of those outrages?—A man of the name of Doherty was tried at the last assizes.

6892. Was he from Gweedore?—He was not.

6893. From what district was he?—I think he was from Gartan.

6894. For what was he tried?—For having sheep found in his possession.

6895. But this man who was tried and convicted was not from Gweedore?—He was not.

6896. Mr. *Maguire.*] Your Lordship referred to the Rev. Mr. Doherty, and made some statement which I am rather anxious to have you explain a little more fully. I think you said that the Rev. Mr. Doherty refused to pay you the rent of some house which he occupied; that he owed you a year's rent which he had not paid?—I said so yesterday. He is returned to me by my agent as not having paid.

6897. Has the Rev. Mr. Doherty paid for the land which he has taken under the same letting?—The rent includes the land and house.

6898. Is not there land in Stranacorcragh for which the Rev. Mr. Doherty has paid?—I allude to his house in Derrybeg; I do not know whether he has paid for the land in other places.

6899. Had

6899. Had the Rev. Mr. Doherty any communication with you as to any claim for a set-off on his part against a portion of his rent?—He had no communication with me upon that subject.

6900. Does your Lordship know that the Rev. Mr. Doherty had any communication with Mr. Forster as to whether he had not a set-off against the rent?—Mr. Forster wrote me word that Mr. Doherty had said that he would not pay his rent until he was processed.

6901. Did Mr. Forster, in discharge of his duty, give you any fuller information than that?—He said that the Rev. Mr. Doherty claimed something for papering the house.

6902. Was not it for permanent improvements, was it for anything beyond papering; you seem to begin to remember?—I do not begin to remember; I am most ready to tell everything I know about it.

6903. It was not told yesterday when your Lordship volunteered the statement, and I wish to ask you, did it come to your knowledge, through your agent, that Mr. Doherty made a claim for a set-off, on the score of permanent improvements, against your demand for rent?—I never heard of any permanent improvement, if you do not call papering a permanent improvement.

6904. Was there anything beyond papering?—I was not told of it.

6905. Did you see the letter which the Rev. Mr. Doherty wrote to Mr. Forster?—I did not.

6906. You do not know whether Mr. Doherty in that letter stated that he was advised that he had a claim both in law and equity against your Lordship, on the score of those improvements?—I do not.

6907. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Is Mr. Doherty a tenant from year to year?—Yes.

6908. Mr. *Maguire.*] I think you also said that Mr. Doherty let the house to the Rev. Mr. M'Ghee; will you endeavour to call to your recollection the exact facts; did he let the house to the Rev. Mr. M'Ghee, or was it your agent who let it to Mr. M'Ghee?—I am told that Mr. Doherty had put Mr. M'Ghee into it.

6909. Do you know whether Mr. M'Ghee did or did not bargain with Mr. Forster for the occupation of that land?—I do not.

6910. Your Lordship has made several new cuts upon your estate, have you not?—I have, in the course of years.

6911. Of what character was the land out of which those new cuts were made?—Of various qualities; generally mountain land, sometimes more boggy, and sometimes less.

6912. Was it generally out of a similar character to that out of which you created the model farm, near the Gweedore Hotel?—It might have been much the same.

6913. I think your Lordship said that many persons considered that you were silly to try to do anything with the land near the Gweedore Hotel?—Yes; my tenants were astonished at my attempting to bring that land into cultivation.

6914. I believe it cost you a great deal of time and labour to bring it to its present condition?—Yes, and money, all expended among the tenants.

6915. Will you have the goodness to state to the Committee what it cost you per acre, on the average, to bring it to its present admirable condition?—I would not call it admirable; I did not use that term.

6916. Its present comparatively excellent condition?—The hill part was very costly, because it was stony; I think it cost about 14 *l.* an acre, and the boggy part cost about 7 *l.* an acre.

6917. Would that represent about the average outlay necessary for the reclamation of the same description of land throughout the district?—As to the same description, it might.

6918. In the case where you marked out a new cut and gave it to a tenant, did you build a house for that tenant?—No; it would be very difficult to build a house for all settlers on such farms, and I certainly did not.

6919. Was there anything done to prepare those new cuts which were given for the occupation of human beings?—It was their wish to have the land, and they laboured it themselves. I offered the premiums, which I had the honour of reading to you yesterday, to encourage them.

6920. Now considering that it cost your Lordship a very large capital to improve the land near the Gweedore Hotel, how can you imagine that human beings could live and improve those cuts which you gave them without their having capital; how could they contrive to live and maintain themselves?—I could

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could not imagine that they could do it without capital; but many have capital; they do a little at a time; and some days they get work through the country, and other days they labour for themselves.

6921. Would you be surprised that they could be anything else but miserable and wretched, considering that they squat down on those cuts which are let to them in a state of nature, and are compelled to make every improvement for their occupation?—I do not compel them to do anything, and I refer you to that petition presented in 1837, showing the miserable state of the district; and without fear I will say they are in far better circumstances than they were then, even after having paid the taxes which their own misconduct has put them under.

6922. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Will you state whether any of the tenants have themselves improved those cuts, as a matter of fact?—Certainly they have, and have received premiums.

6923. Lord *Naas.*] Is there great eagerness on the part of the people generally to obtain possession of those new cuts?—There is, and it was for that reason that I divided what is called the tops in Lunniagh and Carrick. The tenants themselves asked me to do it.

6924. Mr. *Maguire.*] You stated that some of those tenants had improved their land?—Yes.

6925. Have they made what you would call valuable improvements?—I do not know; that is a matter of opinion.

6926. What would your Lordship think?—I think they have made very fair progress.

6927. At some cost to themselves, of course?—No man works without cost.

6928. Have those tenants a lease?—They have not; they never asked me for a lease, and they would not thank me for one.

6929. Do you keep those tenants under perpetual notice to quit?—I do not keep my tenants under a perpetual notice to quit; I found it necessary to put the whole of the tenantry under notices to quit for a certain number of years, for there were troublesome subjects in each townland who might interfere with the new regulations, and therefore I put them under notice to quit for several years, but things went on so well that for two years previous to the sheep outrages I issued no notices to quit, and I was determined to issue no more; but in consequence of those outrages I was obliged to renew them; but the tenantry are perfectly aware that I do not wish to take any advantage of them; it is only for the purpose of keeping the disorderly in some kind of order.

6930. Practically they are under notice to quit at the present moment, are they not?—Yes.

6931. Your Lordship has referred with laudable pride to entries in the travellers' book; I believe that travellers are generally charmed with the accommodation of the hotel, and the picturesqueness of the locality?—If one can believe what they have written in that book.

6932. Would your Lordship represent to the Committee that those notices with respect to the comfort of the hotel, and the beauty of the scenery, have any possible reference to the condition of the mass of the tenantry?—I do not understand the question.

6933. Do you wish to impress upon the Committee that those notices in the travellers' book, recording the comforts of the hotel or expressions of admiration of the scenery, are to be taken as evidences of the good management of the estate, and the prosperity of the tenantry?—I hope the Committe will take it for what I intended it, which was, to show that I had not imposed upon the public, as I was represented to have done, in the petition which was attempted to be presented to the House of Commons last year, that I had fraudulently brought persons there upon false pretences.

6934. I made no such charge; and I hope that your Lordship will not take me as saying anything of the sort?—By no means; but then I am here before the public on my trial, and I wish the public to know the whole truth. I have no disguise, and if you or any other honourable gentleman will come to the Gweedore Hotel you shall see my accounts. I desire my agent to make everything public; it is a public transaction. I undertook it as a public transaction, and it is a public house which I keep.

6935. You consider, I think, the memorial of Patrick McKye of such importance, that you have handed it in?—I do; and I have handed it in to show the miserable

miserable state of the district in 1837; there were only two feather beds, he says, amongst other things. Lord *George Hill.*

6936. You will greatly oblige me if you will read to the Committee the three lines which I have marked in pencil (*handing the pamphlet to the Witness*)?—This is in the petition of Patrick McKye: "Although I must acknowledge that if reference were made to any of the landlords or landholders of the parish, that they would contradict it," (that is his statement) "as it is evident it would blast their honours if it were known abroad that such a degree of want existed in their estates among their tenantry." This petition was handed to the Lord Lieutenant in 1837, and it was given to me as a matter of curiosity. I had nothing at all to do with the country at the time. I have the original petition here, and the gentleman who gave it me, Sir James Dombrain, and presented it to the Lord Lieutenant, is ready at a moment's notice to attend this Committee. And he stated to me that when he presented it to the Lord Lieutenant the two priests of the parish were there to vouch for the truth of the statement. 24 June 1858.

6937. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] This was in 1837, was it not?—Yes.

6938. You have never had any leases upon your estate, have you?—There is one old lease at present.

6939. But as to yourself, since you came in possession have you given any leases?—I offered a lease to Paddy O'Donnell, of Meenanilla, as I stated.

6940. Did he take it?—He took the draft of it, but he has never signed it. He went to live in another town afterwards.

6941. Mr. *Maguire.*] I think your Lordship said yesterday that you met a man named Andy Campbell on the road, and that Andy Campbell, when you asked him how he was getting on, said he wished there was an end to this business?—It was not Andy Campbell, but it was Andy Carroll. I said to him that, after all that I had heard of the distress of the district, I was glad to see him alive and well, and he said he was, and he heartily wished there was an end to this business.

Mr. *William Robertson,* called in; and Examined.

6942. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] WHAT are you?—I am agriculturist and agent to Lord George Hill. Mr. *W. Robertson.*

6943. How long have you been in his service; what number of years?—I have been more or less since the year 1840.

6944. You were with him at the time that his property was divided?—It was in progress when I went there.

6945. When that arrangement was made, was there a certain quantity of the mountain laid off for the use of the tenants?—There was.

6946. Do you know how many acres?—About 9,500.

6947. About 9,500 was cut off for the exclusive use of the tenants and for grazing?—Yes.

6948. And a certain portion was laid off as the landlord's share?—Yes.

6949. About how much acreage was the landlord's portion?—About the same, or perhaps a little more.

6950. Was it about 10,000 acres?—Yes.

6951. Did Lord George Hill continue to hold that portion in his own occupation from that period up to the time of letting it to Mr. Huggup, the Scotchman?—He has held it ever since, and employed herds on it, and sent his own cattle to it, and he has taken cattle belonging to other people for grazing on it.

6952. How many herds has he?—Two.

6953. Were the tenantry satisfied with that arrangement at the time?—The tenants were quite satified; I never heard any tenant complain that he had not enough of grazing.

6954. Was the grazing originally laid off for their use sufficient for the stock they had?—It was.

6955. Did Lord George Hill pay the taxes and cesses for that portion which he took into his own hands?—He paid all the taxes.

6956. There never was any privilege of any sort for the tenants to graze upon his portion?—No privilege whatever.

6957. Did they ever make use of the privilege in any way except as trespassers? No, never.

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6958. Do you know, of your own knowledge, that upon several occasions the tenants' cattle have been impounded for grazing upon his portion?—They have; both cattle and sheep.

6959. That was the portion of mountain which was let to Mr. Huggup, the Scotchman?—Part of it is let, and part of it is still retained in Lord George Hill's own hands.

6960. Are you intimately acquainted with the district, with the people individually, and their habits and circumstances?—Yes.

6961. You were there during the years of famine, were you not?—I was.

6962. What is your opinion of the state of the people at this moment, as compared with the state of the people at the time of the famine?—They are in much better circumstances now.

6963. Is there at present in the country a state of things that you would call destitution?—No destitution whatever.

6964. Were the crops good last year?—The crops were very good.

6965. Was the potato crop better than in the year before?—It was, in our district.

6966. Was there as great a sufficiency of food in the country this year as in former years?—I consider that the last year's crop was as good, if not better, than any I remember since I came to Gweedore.

6967. Lord George Hill's rental was, at the time that the arrangements were first made, raised; that is to say, the valuation was increased, although the rents were not laid upon the people?—The rents were not laid upon the people at the time the divisions were made.

6968. The new rent was not laid upon the people till what year?—One thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

6969. Are you aware what proportion the new rent bears to the Government valuation?—The new rent is under the Government valuation.

6970. Do you mean the gross rental?—Yes.

6971. The first year that his Lordship proposed to lay on the new rent, was there a representation made to him that, as the crop was bad that year, it would come hardly upon the tenants?—There was a deputation went to Lord George Hill, and asked his Lordship not to increase the rent at that time, as the crop had not turned out so well as the former years; but they said that the following year they would be satisfied to pay the advanced rent. His Lordship would not agree to change the rent, but reduced it one-third for the time.

6972. The people have paid their rents, have they not?—They have.

6973. And their taxes?—They have.

6974. And they have paid also this unusual sheep-tax?—Yes, they have paid a very large sum.

6975. That large sum upon a poor district must, in your opinion, of course have inconvenienced them?—There is no doubt that it affected them.

6976. Has it, from your knowledge, had such an effect as to reduce any one of them to a state of destitution?—It has not.

6977. Have they in many cases been obliged to sell their stock to pay their taxes?—In very few cases, I should say, which may be shown by the increase of the stock.

6978. Did you take an account of the stock upon the property in 1849?—Yes, I did.

6979. Did you take an account of the stock last year?—I have the account of 1858.

6980. Was the account in 1858 taken after the payment of the sheep-tax or before?—It was afterwards.

6981. At what date was the return of 1858 taken?—It was taken in the latter end of April and the beginning of May.

6982. Sir *William Somerville.*] At what date was the former account taken?—In 1849; it was taken about November.

6983. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] So that the amount of stock now in the people's hands is of course exclusive of the sales that have taken place to meet the taxes?—Yes.

6984. Can you state what is the increase of stock from 1849 to 1858 up to the time you took the return?—The number of horses in 1849 was 119; the number of cattle 623; the number of sheep I could not take in the present instance,

instance, because they were in the mountains, and the people were disinclined to give accurate information.

6985. Sir *William Somerville.*] Had you the sheep in 1849?—I had not the sheep.

6986. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] The reason you have not the sheep is the difficulty, as they are always in the mountains, of accurately ascertaining the number?—That is the reason.

6987. At the present moment, in addition to that difficulty, is there an unwillingness in the people to state their numbers?—Quite so. The horses in 1858 are 185, and the cattle 1,315.

6988. So that the increase in horses is 66?—Yes.

6989. And in cattle?—Six hundred and ninety-two.

6990. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Are those all the cattle and horses on Lord George's estate?—Exclusive of some on the islands.

6991. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] It includes all the property on the mainland; all the Gweedore property?—Yes.

6992. Lord *Naas.*] Are those in the possession of his tenants only, or are his own included?—His own are not included; those are the tenants' horses and cattle.

6993. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You have stated it as your opinion that there is no destitution in that district?—There is no destitution in my opinion.

6994. Do you know a man of the name of Ferry, who gave evidence before this Committee?—I do; James Ferry.

6995. His evidence before this Committee was to the effect that he had no cattle, but one cow, and that was upon trust until November?—Yes.

6996. He added that he had no food, and that he was in a very destitute condition?—Yes.

6997. His evidence was, I believe, transmitted to you to Gweedore?—Yes; I saw it.

6998. You went immediately to his house, did you not?—I went on Wednesday the 16th.

6999. Who accompanied you?—Mr. Cruice the magistrate.

7000. Will you state to the Committee the condition in which you found his house?—I found in James Ferry's house three milk cows, a quantity of milk, and some butter, also some potatoes and meal.

7001. Lord *Naas.*] Were those cows his?—Yes, they were; they were in his house.

7002. Sir *Edward Hayes.*] Will you state the condition in which you found his beds?—His beds were as good as are generally in the country; there were two beds with quilts, apparently home-made.

7003. You are quite certain that this is the same individual who represented himself here as in a state of the greatest destitution?—Yes.

7004. He also stated, when he was here, that he never could get any employment; are you aware whether he ever applied for employment to you?—I am aware of his applying to me for draining, in November 1856 I think it was; I expected a man over from Scotland to manage the draining, and I told him that so soon as he would come he should have the work; when the man came I sent round to him, and told him that he should have a shilling a day during the winter. However, he declined working by the day, and said he would prefer doing it by piecework; but I had no directions to employ anybody upon those terms, it was by the day I was directed by Mr. Huggup to get the work done, and had Ferry been inclined to work, he should have had labour.

7005. Are there other cases of a similar nature, of men who have got relief, and whom you know to be in comparatively comfortable circumstances?—I do know instances.

7006. Will you refer to a man of the name of Hugh Doogan, of Tor, and state to the Committee what are his circumstances?—Hugh Doogan has three cows.

7007. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] When did you go to his house?—In April last, and on the 31st of May he bought a cow from me, and paid me 6*l.* 15*s.* for her.

7008. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Is that man on Mr. Doherty's relief list?—It is in this book, one of the relief lists.

7009. Will you tell the Committee of a James Sweeney, of the same townland; what are his circumstances?—James Sweeney lives in the same townland; he is

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the owner of eight cattle; he was employed in dividing the relief for the townland of Tor, and his neighbours complained that he did not do it fairly.

7010. Was the complaint that he did not distribute the relief fairly?—Yes.

7011. What happened in consequence of that complaint?—They got some party to beat him in the fair of Gortahork on the 12th of May; this the man told me himself.

7012. Lord *Naas.*] What did he tell you?—That his neighbours had been at the fair at Gortahork, and they did not like to interfere with him themselves, as he would know them, but they advised some strangers from the neighbourhood of Gortahork to attack him in the evening, which they did. He came and lodged an information on the Monday or Tuesday following before Mr. Cruice, at the Gweedore Hotel, and two parties were arrested whom he identified as being those who beat him, or in the party of those who beat him.

7013. Did he state to you the reason he was beaten was because he was supposed to have distributed the relief unfairly?—Yes, he told me that that was the reason why they beat him. James Sweeney has one horse and eight cows.

7014. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] There is a man of the name of Shane M'Garvey, No. 207 on the relief list; did you visit his house?—I did, on the 16th of June, along with Mr. Cruice.

7015. Will you describe his stock; had he one horse and five cows?—He had one horse and five cows.

7016. Did you ask to see his barn?—We met the man himself beside his house, and Mr. Cruice asked him what stock he had, and he said he had one old cow. We then went into his house, and found it comfortable; there were plenty of milk and butter, and some potatoes, and after coming out Mr. Cruice asked him to open his barn door; he said the key was either lost or mislaid, and he could not find it. Mr. Cruice then went to the back of the barn, and found a kind of window which he managed to open, and he looked in and found a large quantity of good-looking potatoes in his barn; I suppose about five tons.

7017. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] In what townland does he live?—In Magheralosk.

7018. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Is this Shane M'Garvey on the relief list?—Yes, he is.

7019. And has he received relief?—I find his name on the list.

7020. If the Committee wish it, you can produce many other instances of the same nature?—I can.

7021. In point of fact, the relief was distributed in a great degree to those who did not require it as a matter of relief to their destitution?—Yes.

7022. Are you aware whether it was announced that the relief should be distributed to those who had paid the tax, as a compensation to them for that payment?—I have been told so. Parties have complained to me that their neighbours have got more relief than them, and that they have paid as much of the sheep-tax and the police-tax also.

7023. There is one more case I will ask you about, and that is Thomas M'Bride; what are his circumstances?—He lives in the same townland of Magheralosk.

7024. He was examined here, was he not?—Yes.

7025. And he represented himself and his neighbours as being in a state of the greatest possible destitution?—Yes.

7026. Did you visit his house the other day?—Yes, we called at Thomas M'Bride's house on the 16th also of this month.

7027. What did you find there?—We found his father outside, and Mr. Cruice asked him to open the door, but he said he could not; so that we did not get into either his house or the office houses.

7028. Did you ask him about his stock?—His father said the stock which they had was principally his own, and not his son's. I find he has one horse and nine cattle.

7029. His father has some money, has he not?—Yes, his father has money; they both live together at present.

7030. It has been stated here that it is almost impossible to get work at any fair remuneration; can you state to the Committee, from your own knowledge, any circumstances connected with that subject?—It has been very difficult to get labourers during the spring and winter.

7031. Are

7031. Are you in the habit of employing men yourself?—Yes, I employ men always.

7032. How many?—I employ two or three on my own account.

7033. And do you not employ some on Lord George Hill's account?—Yes.

7034. Do you find the rate of wages higher or lower than it was two years ago?—The rate of wages is higher, although there has been very little change in the wages given by us; merely for turf-cutting we have been obliged to pay higher; we usually had our turf cut by the hundred, which cost 15*s.* two years ago, and this year we offered 25*s.* a hundred to different parties, but neither of them would work by the job.

7035. Has Mr. Hunter given employment to the people of the neighbourhood?—Mr. Hunter has had a great deal of labour done.

7036. Do you know, from your own knowledge, the rate of wages that he gives?—His work is job work, principally fencing, and 1*s.* 2*d.* per perch is the average rate that he has paid.

7037. What could an industrious man earn in a day at that rate of wages?—On an average a man could make at least 2 perches or 2½ perches at the kind of fences which he has been making; he has had some miles of them made, and although the work was to have been finished on the 1st of May, there is still a large portion of it undone from want of labourers.

7038. So that he is unable to complete his work in this alleged destitute district for want of labourers?—He is unable to complete his work, for want of labourers.

7039. And you say he is giving that rate of wages?—Yes, higher than has been given in the district.

7040. Mr. *Dobbs.*] How long has he been giving that rate of wages?—He commenced this work in the month of February last.

7041. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] I think you say that you can give several more instances, if the Committee wish, where relief has been given to those who are not destitute?—Yes.

7042. Are you acquainted with any of the new cuts that Lord George Hill has made since he came to the property?—I am.

7043. Are you aware whether, at any time, the tenant-right has been sold of the new cuts; that is to say, one man selling his goodwill to another?—If a tenant wishes to leave, he gets paid for his improvements.

7044. Is he paid by Lord George Hill?—Yes.

7045. Does he get a full valuation for his improvements?—Yes.

7046. Are the people generally willing to take those cuts?—They are very anxious to get them.

7047. You do not find any diminution of that anxiety of late?—There have been some new cuts that were made lately given out to tenants' sons, and they all told me that since they took the new cuts they have been struck off the relief list.

7048. The people who take the new cuts are told that if they do they will be struck off the relief list; is that so?—Parties have told me so since they took those cuts, in the month of April; they were taken on the 1st of April.

7049. Have you been in the habit, on the part of Lord George Hill, of buying stockings?—I have, for a number of years.

7050. On the average, how much do you lay out in that district?—Between 500*l.* and 600*l.* annually.

7051. In point of fact, until the new rent came in, the amount spent in stockings was more than the rental?—It was over the old rental of the property.

7052. At any time since you have come there, have you known whether the wool in the district was sufficient to supply the trade, or have they always been obliged to buy wool?—The wool in the district was never sufficient to supply the demand, and there has always been wool brought into the district, and bought by the women at the neighbouring fairs.

7053. Then, in point of fact, if the people now buy wool to knit their stockings, it is not because there are no sheep in the district, but because there is not a sufficiency of wool, nor ever has been?—Just so; I consider that the stock of sheep has increased as much as the stock of cattle and horses for the time.

7054. Lord *Naas.*] Do you give out the wool?—I do not; I buy the stockings, and they purchase the wool.

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7055. Do you buy all the stockings they bring to you?—All that are of a good quality, for two London houses.

7056. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] There is a standard quality, is there not?—Yes.

7057. Lord *Naas.*] Do you know whether they sell stockings in the fairs?—They do.

7058. What sort of stockings do they sell in the fairs?—A very inferior kind.

7059. What is the difference in price between what they generally get in the fairs and what you give them?—From 3 *d.*, 4 *d.*, and 4½ *d.* are the prices given for the description that they sell in the fairs; I give them 2*s.* down to 9 *d.*, according to the quality.

7060. Have you general instructions from Lord George Hill to relieve any distress that comes to your knowledge, or to give any employment, or to meet the wants of the people when he is absent?—I have instructions from Lord George Hill particularly to see that no poor person is in want, and also at any time to employ any number of able-bodied labourers that may require work.

7061. In point of fact, since you have been there, have there been many applications to you from time to time, both for work and for relief for their necessities?—During the famine and some years afterwards there were a great many applied for work, and also for different other things, but of late years there have been much fewer applications either for work or other things.

7062. For the last 12 or 15 months have the applications to you from people in distress been many?—I have had no applications whatever.

7063. Is it then possible that that district could be in a state of destitution without those applications being made to you, and without any person going to the workhouse?—My opinion is, that there is no destitution whatever.

7064. Lord *Naas.*] When there was a great deal of destitution in the district, did they make applications to you?—They did; and it was quite evident to be seen, in the people's faces, that they were destitute; they had quite a different look altogether from what they have now.

7065. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] From your observation of the clothing, generally, of the people, do you state that it is much worse, or better, or pretty much the same as it has been for some years?—The clothing is as good as it ever has been, and, if anything, it is better than it was some seven or eight years ago. The people generally do not lay out much money on clothes, but the people who are well off are not better dressed, generally, than their poorer neighbours.

7066. Lord *Naas.*] Then, in this country, does the dress of a person indicate his wealth or poverty?—It does not.

7067. They all dress pretty much alike, do they not?—Yes, they do not like to be odd.

7068. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Will you describe to the Committee the dress of the men of the country?—It is generally home-made frieze.

7069. Do they wear coats?—Seldom; they wear waistcoats with flannel sleeves; and the women wear what they call tammy, which is manufactured in the district.

7070. Do the women manufacture drugget?—That is the same thing as they call tammy.

7071. From your own knowledge and observation, have you seen any women of the country so badly clothed as to expose them to observation?—I have not; I have not seen any cases of the kind.

7072. I mean, in their houses particularly, are the women so dressed as to be, as has been alleged before the Committee, in want of sufficient clothing for the purposes of decency?—No. As I said before, I consider the clothing better than it was some years ago; and as the stock has increased, it has enabled the people to get better clothing.

7073. And the same observation applies to their bedding?—It does. There is generally a good deal of bedding manufactured in the district; blankets, and also bed-ticks, which they very often sell, in place of using them themselves.

7074. Did Mr. Sharman Crawford visit this district?—He did.

7075. Did you see him?—I met him, though at the time I did not know who he was.

7076. Where were you when you met him?—I was going between Bunbeg and Derrybeg.

7077. Were you riding?—I was driving in my gig.

7078. How

7078. How was he going?—He was on a car.

7079. Was he alone?—No; there was the Rev. Mr. M'Gee, and I think the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden with him.

7080. Were the Rev. Mr. M'Gee and the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden acquainted personally with you?—Yes, they know me.

7081. Was there any attempt made to introduce you to Mr. Crawford?—No, none whatever. I met him again the same day near Bunbeg.

7082. Mr. Crawford did not enter into any conversation with you as to the state of the country?—He did not talk to me at all on the subject.

7083. Have the people any impression upon their minds as to what the object of all this movement is?—I have been told within this last week or two, that when matters are settled in London the country is just to go back to the same state that it was in 20 or 30 years ago, that those people who hold new cuts must leave them, and also that the Scotch sheep must all be sent back to Scotland.

7084. *Chairman.*] Who told you that?—I was told it by Hugh Bonar, of Meenderryamph, and Neal Moorey, one of my own men; and also Michael Sweeney.

7085. Are those men living on Lord George Hill's estate?—They are.

7086. Are they farmers?—They hold new cuts.

7087. Lord *Naas.*] Do they work with you or with Lord George Hill?—They work with me.

7088. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Have you known any cases where cattle and bed-clothes have been concealed, for the purpose of dressing up an appearance of poverty?—I have seen them trying to hide the cattle, and I have suspected that the bed-clothes were hid, but I did not find any.

7089. Mr. *Dobbs.*] When have you seen them trying to hide the cattle?—On Wednesday week, the 16th.

7090. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You spend some money weekly, do you not, about the Gweedore Hotel, in work?—Yes, for labour; the average that I spend for labour is between 5*l.* and 6*l.* a week, and that has been continued since 1846, when I went there, exclusive of building and tradesmen's bills.

7091. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] You mentioned that there are two herds kept by Lord George Hill; what are their duties?—To keep off trespassers, and take care of the cattle sent to them during the summer.

7092. Do you mean that they are employed to look after the cattle that Lord George Hill himself takes in, and to keep off cattle which have no right to go there?—That is part of their duty.

7093. Is the boundary marked in any way so that persons who were not employed in marking it out could be aware of the boundary between Lord George Hill's and the tenants' portions?—It is not lock-spitted or fenced, but the tenants know it; it has been shown to them.

7094. Do the tenants all know it?—They do know it, and it is a thing that has never been disputed.

7095. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Who made those boundaries that are there?—Mr. Montgomery.

7096. Who were the persons actually employed in working out those boundaries on the mountains; were they tenants on the estate?—Yes, the tenants.

7097. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Is that sort of marking-out in a wild mountainous district of a kind generally considered sufficient?—Yes.

7098. No attempt has been made to put up walls or a ditch, or anything of that kind?—Not on the mountains, as yet.

7099. When the tenants turn their sheep on the mountain, do they look after them at all?—They do not look after them.

7100. Do the tenants appoint men to look after their cattle and sheep, or, having turned them upon the mountain, do they leave them there, and take no more trouble about them?—That is what they wish to do.

7101. Lord *Naas.*] Is it one of their complaints that this marking off of the mountain entails upon them the necessity of keeping some one to look after their cattle and sheep?—That is it; it is not the want of grazing that they complain of, for the people have always been satisfied as to their grazing; but their complaint is that they are not allowed to range over the whole of the mountain.

7102. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] If sheep are turned on the mountain at this time of the year, and left there until the time to take them off, when the grass begins

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to fail, and are not looked after, is it not likely that great loss will take place?—Yes.

7103. Do the Scotchmen leave their sheep there in that way?—No; the Scotchmen attend to them every day, both late and early.

7104. Do they get them under protection?—Yes.

7105. Do they shelter the sheep at all?—No; they let them scatter over the mountain.

7106. But you say they look after them every day?—Yes.

7107. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Do they smear them?—Yes.

7108. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] Is their loss very large?—The loss from death or disease is very small.

7109. Taking this time of the year, from April to the middle of July, have they much loss of sheep on the mountain?—No; very trifling.

7110. Do you know at all as to what per-centage it would be?—I do not exactly remember, but it is very small. I think it was described yesterday by Mr. Hunter.

7111. You stated, that a little while ago the anxiety for new cuts was very great; did I rightly understand you to say that that anxiety had decreased?—It has not decreased on the part of the people, although some of them being struck off the relief list has rather put them in confusion in the meantime.

7112. Did you say that the anxiety for the new cuts had lately decreased?—Yes, it has.

7113. And you attribute that to their being struck off the relief list if they take the new cuts?—I do.

7114. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Do you know that of your own knowledge?—Yes: the people have told me so.

7115. *Chairman.*] Do you know the names of the people that told you?—Yes, I do.

7116. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Are you aware whether those names are still in the list?—They are in the list, but I do not know what date.

7117. Are you aware that they are on the relief list that has been handed in to the Committee?—I do not know the list.

7118. If you know their names, would you look at the list, and see whether they are on it?—They are on the list that I have, but I do not know the date.

7119. Did they tell you that they had been struck off?—Yes.

7120. When did they tell you that they had been struck off?—I cannot exactly say the day of the month, but it is about a fortnight ago.

7121. Where was it they told you; were you asking them about it, or did they come to you and volunteer the statement?—They came up to tell me; and one of them in particular said that he would give up his cut for that reason.

7122. What is his name?—It was Hugh M'Bride, or, rather, it was Hugh M'Bride's son, that came to me, and said that he was sent by his father to tell me so.

7123. Is that the man who was examined here?—No, it is not the same.

7124. Do you not know whether it was the father or the son that came to you?—The son came to me, and he said he was sent by his father.

7125. Did the others come in the same manner to you, or did you ask them?—James Gallagher came to me.

7126. That was when he knew you were to come over here, after this Committee was known to have been appointed, was it not?—Yes, it was.

7127. After the priests had left the place?—Yes, I fancy it was; I cannot positively say that they had left.

7128. You stated, in answer to Sir Edmund Hayes, that you had several instances to mention in which relief had been given to persons who were not proper objects of it?—Yes.

7129. Can you tell me how many instances you could state from your own knowledge; were there ten?—Yes, there are much more than that on Lord George Hill's property.

7130. Are there 15?—Yes.

7131. Can you tell me the number of cases that you have ascertained by personal observation in which relief was given on Lord George Hill's property to persons who were not fit recipients of it, and who were in good circumstances?—There is no doubt there are a number of people on the property who were benefited by the relief, but at the same time they could have done without it.

7132. That

7132. That is not an answer to my question. You stated, did you not, to Sir Edmund Hayes, three instances in which relief had been given to persons who ought not to have got it?—Yes.

7133. You stated also that you could tell the Committee several other instances in which you had ascertained personally that relief had been given to persons who ought not to have received it: can you tell the number of instances in which you ascertained this?—I will give the names, if the Committee wish: Connell M'Ginley, of Meenacuin; Thomas M'Gee, of Meenacuin; Margaret Doogan, Connell Doogan, and JackM'Cue; in Meenderryamph, there are Bryan Boyle, Paddy Boyle, Noel O'Donnell, Billy Coyle, who I believe are all on the relief list; in Middletown, there are John O'Donnell, Daniel Harkin, Owen Gallagher, John Harkin, Billy Bonar, Billy Cole, Paddy Gallagher, Teague Cole, Roger Gallagher, John Doogan, Neal Bonar, John M'Cole; in Magheraclogher, John Gallagher, John Doherty, Taul Cole, Roger Gallagher, John Sweenay, John M'Bride, Paddy Campbell, Mickey O'Donnell, Andrew Doogan, James Roherty; in Meenanillar, Shane Cole, Unity Gallagher, Neal O'Donnell, Maggy Boyle; in Derrybeg, Owen Boyle, Dick Gallagher, Daniel M'Cole; in Meenderryamph, John Cole and Daniel Cole; in Sleehane, Hugh Gallagher; in Lower Dore, Manus Dunn, Maggy Doogan, Shane Gallagher, James M'Bride, Teague M'Fadden, Taul Cole, Patrick Gallagher, James Donnell, Francis Donnell, Maggy Gallagher, Andrew Gallagher, Paddy M'Ilwaine, Manus Boyle, Daniel M'Gee; in Arduns, James Feny and James Boyle; in Dore, Owen Boyle, Biddy Boyle, James Boyle, and Charles Boyle; in Tor, Hugh Doogan, Daniel Gallagher, and James Sweeney.

7134. Could you make out a list, and give it to the Committee?—Yes.

7135. Did you visit all the houses yourself?—I know them all.

7136. Did you go to their houses yourself?—I know the people intimately, all of them.

7137. Did you go to the houses lately, since this relief list was given in?—I have seen their houses, and I know them all intimately.

7138. Have you been to them?—I have not been to them all.

7139. You stated to Sir Edmund Hayes that you had gone to several; but I want you to tell me what number of instances you yourself have examined since the relief list was given in?—I did not understand that.

7140. I want you to tell me, in how many cases did you, since you got the relief list, go to examine those houses?—I only got the relief list since I came here.

7141. I thought you stated that you had lately examined the houses of some of the people?—So I did; but I only got the relief list since I came here.

7142. In how many cases did you yourself, within the last month, examine the houses; about how many; were there 20 or 30?—I did examine about 20, I am sure.

7143. Can you tell me in how many cases you have been in the houses of the people whose names you have given in?—In a great many cases they prevented me from getting into the houses.

7144. I am not asking you that, but in how many cases were you in the houses?—About 50.

7145. You state that you were prevented from going to some of the houses?—I was.

7146. In how many cases were you prevented from going into the houses; can you tell from memory?—I cannot tell from memory.

7147. Were there 10 houses?—There were.

7148. Were they on Lord George Hill's property?—Yes.

7149. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Were there 20 houses that you were prevented going into?—There were, certainly.

7150. Were there 30?—I could not really say.

7151. Would you say between 20 and 30?—Yes; at all events, there were that number.

7152. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Have you got in your book the names of the persons who prevented you going into their houses?—Yes.

7153. Could you hand in to the Committee to-morrow a list of those persons who prevented you going into their houses, and a list of those persons whom you visited?—Yes.

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7154. Will you tell the Committee how they prevented you?—The houses were shut.

7155. You think that they did not wish you to see the inside?—Yes.

7156. Did you tell them what you went for?—I did not.

7157. Did you ask to go in; did you knock at the door?—Yes.

7158. Did anybody answer?—No.

7159. Did you see the owners of those houses afterwards?—I have not seen them.

7160. Did you know them personally?—Perfectly.

7161. Did you ever tell any one of those people that you had gone to his house, and ask him why he did not let you in?—It was generally known that I was going about.

7162. Did you ever after tell any one of those people that you had gone to his house, and you could not get in?—I did.

7163. What did he tell you was the reason that you could not get in?—Because he was not at home.

7164. Were they at home, any of them?—That I cannot say; I think, perhaps, they had left for a time.

7165. You cannot say whether any one was in those houses at which you knocked, and could not get in?—I cannot say.

7166. Lord *Naas.*] In former times, were you in the habit of visiting those people at their houses?—Yes, generally.

7167. Had you ever found a difficulty in getting in before?—No, never.

7168. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Did you ever before go to their houses when nobody was in the houses?—I might have done so at times.

7169. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Is it very usual for a poor family to go out and shut the door?—Not usual.

7170. Except when some process server, or some one of that kind, is coming?—Yes.

7171. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Did you ever call a second time, to see if you could find somebody at home?—No, I cannot say I did.

7172. In all those cases in which you did get into the houses, you say the people were in comfortable circumstances?—Yes, in the case of the names that I gave in.

7173. Lord *Naas.*] Was Mr. Cruice with you on the day you speak of?—He was.

7174. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] You state that the potato crop was better this year than it has been any year for a long time?—It was.

7175. Was there any failure at all?—Very trifling.

7176. Less than in any previous year?—Yes, I consider so.

7177. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] What was the price of potatoes?—Two shillings a hundred-weight.

7178. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] I think you said that up to 1854 there was no rent fixed at all?—I do not exactly understand the question.

7179. Was the rent of each man's holding fixed at the time the survey took place, from 1841 to 1843?—Yes; the old rents were still continued, although the holdings were altered.

7180. The Rundale system was got rid of, and each man had a separate tenement which he held at a separate rent?—Yes.

7181. In 1854 you thought it right to raise the rents, did you not?—In 1854 the new rent came into operation.

7182. What was the amount of increase?—The old rent was 472 *l.*, and the new rent was 858 *l.*

7183. Was it merely the rent of the land that they paid, or did it include any kelp?—The rent of the land.

7184. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do they pay any extra rent for fishery, or any right of grazing?—Nothing beyond the rent.

7185. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] When was it that you say a deputation went to wait on Lord George Hill?—In November 1854.

7186. How many individuals did that deputation consist of?—There was, I think, a man from every townland, if I remember perfectly; either one or two from each townland.

7187. Are you sure of that?—Two or three from each townland came, expecting

ing to meet Lord George Hill at the Gweedore hotel; and his Lordship not being there, I think they then appointed two or three out of the property to go to Lord George Hill. As well as I can recollect, that is how it was.

7188. You gave in an account of the present stock of cattle; when did you make it?—In the latter end of April, or beginning of May.

7189. Did you ascertain yourself what stock each man had, or was that account made out from the numbers that they gave you?—Partly from my own observation, and partly from what the bailiffs stated.

7190. Did you ask the tenants themselves what stock they had?—Yes, I did.

7191. Did you show them the bailiff's statement?—I often found it incorrect by the tenant's statement.

7192. Did you get from these tenants a statement of what stock they had?—Not generally.

7193. Did you from any of them?—Not generally.

7194. Your information then is derived from the bailiffs, and from your own observation?—Yes; from the bailiffs and from my own observation.

7195. Do you know a person of the name of Edward Campbell, of Meenaduff?—I do.

7196. Have you taken account of his stock?—I have.

7197. Can you tell me how many you have given him in your statement?—Three cattle.

7198. Did you yourself see three cattle with him?—I did.

7199. Did you go to his house?—I did.

7200. Did you see three cows there?—I did.

7201. Do you know a person of the name of Patrick Boyle, in Tor?—There are two Patrick Boyles in Tor.

7202. Did you go to the house of both of them, or do you remember going to the house of one of them, and finding it shut?—Yes.

7203. Did you get into the house of either of them?—There was one Patrick Boyle's house I was in; the other I was not.

7204. Is he one of the persons whose names you have given in as unfit objects for relief?—No; I did not mention his name; but he is not a fit object for relief.

7205. What stock of cattle had he?—He has two cows.

7206. Did you find any provision in potatoes or oats in the house?—He has provisions, and I believe his family has been employed at the Gweedore hotel for the last two months; I may say over two months.

7207. What provisions did you find in his house?—There was meal in the house.

7208. You stated that there were two persons of that name, and you were in the house of one?—Yes.

7209. Are both on the relief list?—I am not certain; I have not examined the list.

7210. Will you look by-and-bye, and tell the Committee whether there is more than one Patrick Boyle on the relief list?—Yes.

7211. Do you know a person of the name of Dominick Doherty, in Magheralosk?—I do.

7212. Were you in his house?—I was not in his house.

7213. Did you see him or ask him about his stock?—I did not see him.

7214. Was his one of the houses which you were not able to get into?—I was not in this man's house,

7215. Do you know all those persons yourself?—I do, personally.

7216. Have you lived on Lord George Hill's estate since 1841?—I have.

7217. Have you been in the habit of going into the houses of the people?—I have, occasionally.

7218. Not more than occasionally; were you in many of them between November and Christmas last?—I have been in a number of them.

7219. You say that the new tax has affected them; I suppose it has diminished their resources?—Of course it has.

7220. You do not know of any one being obliged to sell cattle to pay the tax?—I am not aware of any.

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7221. Might they not, as Mr. Underwood stated in his evidence, have sold their cattle to pay the tax?—They might, in some instances.

7222. Might they have sold oats to pay off the tax without your knowing it?—They generally sell their oats.

7223. Did they sell oats to pay this tax?—They sold oats.

7224. Did they sell any potatoes?—They did.

7225. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do you mean that they sold oats to pay the tax, or did they sell them as a matter of course, irrespective of the tax?—There were oats sold before the tax was levied.

7226. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] When you went to examine the houses was anybody with you but Mr. Cruice?—Yes, head constable Young.

7227. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You stated that there were a great number of cases, and you mentioned 67 cases that you did not think proper cases for relief; what I want to ask is this, do you think that there was any one of those persons who got relief to whom the fact of their getting relief made the difference between their being in a state of actual starvation or otherwise?—I do not think that anyone on the property would have been starved if they had had no relief.

7228. What do you mean by a fit object for relief?—Of course there were parties who were better for the relief, no doubt, but at the same time they would not have starved if they had not got it.

7229. Nor would they have been in destitution; is that what you mean?—They would not have been in destitution.

7230. Do you know anything about the Scotch sheep that were killed on the mountains, and did you take any part in trying to find out who was engaged in killing them?—No.

The Reverend *Alexander Brown Nixon*, called in; and Examined.

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7231. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] YOU are a magistrate, are you not?—Yes.

7232. You live at Heathfield, near Dunfanaghy?—Yes.

7233. You purchased property in this district in 1845, did you not?—Yes; I received the rents from 1844.

7234. The Committee have heard something about the regret of the people at the loss of Mr. Copeland; the property was rather peculiarly circumstanced, was it not, when you bought it?—Yes, it was; Mr. Copeland was an absentee; he had got the property by the death of his brother-in-law, who was a very wild young man.

7235. There was some sort of arrangement about the rents which made them appear lower than they really were?—There was an abatement given by this young man of one-third of the amount of the rents on condition that the tenants would pay him instead of paying his uncle; he reduced the rent one-third.

7236. There were no royalties and manorial rights upon this property?—Not the least; it was a bishop's lease; the royalties were reserved.

7237. Was there a question of disputed title between the uncle and nephew?—No, the dispute was this: there was a minority, and the uncle received the rents, and was displeased with the conduct of the young man, who was very foolish, and when he came of age he wanted quietly to get rid of his uncle; he came to the tenants and said: "Pay me a guinea and I will give you a receipt, and we will get rid of my uncle;" a guinea and a half was what they were paying before; I wish the Committee to understand that the old rents were one-third higher.

7238. What was the rent of a cow's grass about the beginning of 1800?—The rent was then 1 *l.* 15 *s.* 8 *d.* for a cow's grass in some townlands; there were other townlands where it was 2 *l.* 2 *s.* 11 *d.*

7239. In addition to that, tithe had to be paid?—They had in addition to that to pay tithe and duty days and duty fowl.

7240. You have a receipt of that, if the Committee wish to see it, have you not?—I have a receipt showing the rent that was paid then, in the year 1798.

7241. The rent now paid, is what?—£. 1. 10 *s.* 6 *d.*

7242. Were this duty fowl and duty days paid under leases?—I had better hand in the receipt in the first place to the Chairman (*handing a paper to the Chairman*). I do not wish the name of the man who is mentioned in that receipt to

to be published in the country: I may mention to the Committee that I never could get hold of a lease belonging to the property; they were all concealed from me; but I have a lease here, in my hand, of the adjacent property, from which it appears that each man was to give eight days of work, two days of a man and horse, 30 kishes of turf, and six hens; the leases on this property were similar.

7243. It has been said to the Committee that you charge poor-rates to the tenants that are under 4 *l.* rent; do you do that under an agreement that was existing before you bought the property?—I do.

7244. It is a mere arrangement between you and the tenants with regard to that payment?—It is an arrangement; I have Mr. Copeland's letter, which I will hand in to the Committee, if they please.

7245. Mr. Copeland informed you, did he not, that you took a wrong view of the subject of those poor-rates, as the tenants were bound to pay tithe and poor-rate by a private agreement with them?—He did; here are his letters (*producing the same*).

7246. He wrote a second letter to the same effect on the 1st February 1844, did he not?—Yes.

7247. You charge no rates on the new cuts?—No.

7248. Is that because they do not come under Mr. Copeland's agreement?—Yes.

7249. Your receipts will show that, will they not?—My receipts will show that.

7250. The Rev. Mr. Doherty informed the Committee that he had heard that you had said you would charge the poor-rates under another name; was not he mistaken in that?—Quite mistaken. Having the receipts in his hands, in which it is stated that I had received the half rate, he could scarcely have been under a greater mistake than to say that I was concealing it, and receiving that rate under another name, when I put it in the receipt.

7251. When the clerk, to whom Mr. Doherty referred, told you that it was illegal, I believe that you, in order to prove that there was no concealment, always purposely charged the rates separately?—I always purposely, for that reason, put the rates down separately, but the clerk was not aware of that agreement.

7252. The case of Patrick M'Fadden was alluded to as one of great destitution; do you know anything about that man?—I know Patrick M'Fadden, of Glashagh. I would wish to state to the Committee some circumstances respecting that man, because they appeared to think that people, when in great distress, were prevented from going into the poorhouse lest they should lose their land.

7253. Did he go into the poorhouse?—Patrick M'Fadden did go into the poorhouse; and before he went into the poorhouse he surrendered his house and land in due form to me.

7254. You kept possession of it for him, did you not?—I did keep possession of it for him; I knew him to be in distress, and therefore I held his land for him while he was in the poorhouse, and replaced him when the times got better, and he could get out; that is the man who is alluded to as a very poor man in Glashagh.

7255. Have you been in his house lately?—I have not.

7256. Are the people very well aware that adults over 15 may go into the poorhouse without the rest of their family going?—They are aware of it.

7257. Was not there one M'Carrol who went into the workhouse without the rest of her family?—Widow Mary M'Carrol's daughter was ill, and I thought her a proper person to go into the workhouse, as she was not getting nourishment enough from her mother. I recommended her to go in, and she did go in, and remained there a long time, and I visited her in the poorhouse, and saw that she was comfortable there.

7258. Have you known other cases of a like nature?—I have; there was a man, whose name I forget, in Old Town, who had a boy 13 or 14 years of age, who used to run in and out of the poorhouse just as he pleased.

7259. When you purchased the property, the mountains were held in rundale, were they not?—They were.

7260. What course did you take under those circumstances?—On the lands that were held in rundale I gave them all notice to quit, and divided the lands.

7261. Did they surrender possession?—They surrendered possession.

7262. And you then divided the land out into new cuts, did you not?—I divided

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I divided the land into new cuts, and gave each man in due form possession of his new cut, instead of what he formerly held from me, which words were written down in a book, and read to each man.

7263. You hold some of those mountains in your own hand, do you not?—I do, and have always done so.

7264. You would not have bought the property except for the use of those mountains?—Certainly not.

7265. Did not Mr. Copeland, in a letter to you of the 27th of January 1844, hold those very mountains out as a great motive to you for buying the property?—He did, in three different letters, which I would wish to put in. He says, in a letter of the 22d of January, "I pay rent and tithes for about 3,000 acres, which I allow the tenants to graze in common till I require it." Again, in his letter of the 1st February 1844, he says, "You also take a wrong view of the valuation, as in it all the mountain I hold in my own right to do as I think best with is valued, but the valuation is very low, from 4 *d.* to 1 *s.* per acre; even that added will, you know, raise the valuation. I could show you that the tithe valuator charged me with the tithes on every acre of mountain, which I have been paying ever since." Then he makes another observation, "There is no one buying reclaimable mountain can or will be paid for his outlay at once; as he gets the land reclaimed, it will pay him the better."

7266. You took those mountains in your own hand in 1845, did you not?—As soon as I could after getting the property, I put an end to this rundale system, and took the land into my own hands.

7267. So that the present distress could not have been caused by your having taken the mountains?—My taking those mountains cannot have the least relation to it, because I have had them so long.

7268. Did the tenants set any value on them at that time?—They did. There was a curious view of the value they set upon those mountains, and a curious way in which it was proved. After I had taken the mountain into my own possession, a man came to tell me that the tenants of a place called Ballyboe had set him about 1,000 acres of this mountain for either 1 *l.* 10 *s.* or 2 *l.* 10 *s.* a year, and that they had done that unknown to Mr. Copeland; and until he came to me to tell me, I had not an idea of it.

7269. You let it to him for a year or two?—I let the six months' grazing of it to him for a year or two.

7270. Did you do that on condition that he would keep every other trespasser off?—Of course.

7271. Then the people did not have a common right of running over those mountains?—Decidedly not; and the pounding of the trespassers, for which I had been complained of, was merely asserting my right.

7272. In 1849, did you let 1,000 acres on Old Town?—Yes; in 1848 or 1849, at 27 *s.* 6 *d.*

7273. Did you also let the Ray Mountain for a similar rent?—For 50 *s.* This was the value laid on it.

7274. Have you always on those mountains paid tithe, and poor-rate, and county cess?—Yes.

7275. You offered the mountains for 6 *d.* per acre this year, did you not?—I offered the mountains for 6 *d.* an acre this year to a Scotch gentleman. I said I would set them to him for that.

7276. Did he take them?—He did not.

7277. For what reason?—I suppose when he found the people murdering the sheep he did not like to have anything to do with them.

7278. Have you had any other offer this year for them?—The brother of a tenant came to ask them from me, and I knew very well he was coming to take it for the tenants, and I made him the same offer which I made to the Scotchman, and he would not take them.

7279. Then they are not all let this year, and some you keep in your own hands?—Some I keep in my own hands, and I have some let.

7280. Some you let at a nominal rental, do you not, in order to keep off trespassers and preserve your rights?—I have charged 5 *l.* for 1,000 acres this year; that is all I have set this year.

7281. You do that in order to enable you to keep off trespassers after game?—Chiefly.

7282. There

7282. There are 570 acres on which you make a charge for grazing; what do you charge for that?—That is I believe in the townlands of Glashagh and Brunlack, and there, in order merely to assert my rights, and to prevent them running this way into commonage, I charge 1 *d.* a head.

7283. Do you charge in the same way a nominal sum for the collection of sea-weed?—I consider it quite a nominal sum, ½ *d.* in 1 *s.* of rent.

7284. That you do for the purpose of maintaining control over your property?—Yes, for the purpose of keeping it in my own hands, and putting an end to those claims, as to which, if a landlord does not look after his property, he will lose it.

7285. You do this partly to secure manure for the land, do you not?—Yes; and it enables me, having a control over it, to settle disputes about it, and to prevent their burning it up to a certain day, up to which day it should go as manure for the land.

7286. You do not charge a rent for the purpose of preventing the people using the sea-weed?—Not at all; it is not for the burning or manufacturing of kelp that I charge it, but for the right of getting the weed on the shore.

7287. You charge 1 *d.* a barrel for lime?—I do.

7288. When it is offered for sale?—Yes, when it is offered for sale; when my turf banks are cut up and the limestone taken, I charge 1 *d.* per barrel for any that is sold.

7289. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Is the limestone on your own estate?—Yes.

7290. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Did you find some 20 or more families of cotters without land on the mountain?—When I bought the property I found 25 families of cotters without any land; sub-tenants to tenants.

7291. You gave them land, did you not?—One great object of my taking the mountains into my own hands was to provide places for those cotters, and to enlarge the farms of persons who held the old land, which I have done to a very great extent.

7292. You charge, do you not, a rent of 1 *d.* a day for eight acres?—It is not 1 *d.* a day for eight acres of land.

7293. Are some of those families well off?—Yes, very well.

7294. Do you know one widow Doohan?—Yes, I do.

7295. Is she better off in consequence of that arrangement?—She has, I think, three or four cows, and she had before no land or stock, or anything, except three little boys.

7296. Have you refused leases to your tenants?—I have not refused leases; I have urged people to take leases, and they have refused to take them.

7297. For what reason?—I made it out after some time, and after I did make out what the reason was, I did not urge them to take any more leases.

7298. What was the reason?—They took it into their heads that if they took a lease they would be bound to pay me the rent mentioned in the lease for 21 years, which was the term I offered; but somehow or other they had got a notion that before 21 years went by they would have it for nothing, and, therefore, they would not take a lease.

7299. Some of them have taken leases from you, have they not?—Paddy M'Kye, the man who wrote that famous petition, was a knowing fellow, a national schoolmaster, and a very decent man, and I gave him a lease, and one or two more, and I have promised one or two besides who are steady persons.

7300. The whole use that you made of this waste land was to make additions to those tenants whose farms you thought too small?—I set a great deal in that way.

7301. That has been a great benefit to them, has it not?—A very great benefit.

7302. Some of those so situated have settled altogether, have they not, on new cuts?—They have sold their low land, their arable land, and enlarged the farms by that means; and they are gone up and settled, and are doing well on the new farms.

7303. Can you give their names?—I can; Nathaniel M'Fadden, for one, has done that; and Hugh M'Fadden, for another, has done that.

7304. Have you set several hundred acres in this manner?—I have.

7305. You have let two farms to strangers, have you not?—I have.

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7306. Had you an object in doing so?—A very great object. I wanted to show the people that the land was mine, for while I confined myself to the people that were living on the land, to the cotters and the tenants, it was only giving them the idea that the land was theirs, and that I dare not set it to anyone else; and therefore I set those two farms to strangers.

7307. With that exception, which was done with a view to preserve your right, you have refused strangers?—I have refused a number of strangers, for I had too many people there.

7308. It has been stated to the Committee that you charge income tax to your tenants; do you do so?—I wish to answer that it is not true that I do so.

7309. You never did such a thing at all, did you?—Never.

7310. Do you charge anything for the use of turf?—I do; to preserve my rights over the turbary, I charge quite a nominal sum of 1*s.* 6*d.* for so much as supplies a man's house.

7311. You have said that those duty days, of which we have heard so much, were enforced under Mr. Copeland, the former landlord?—All the work that he got done in the country was done by duty work, I believe.

7312. You think that a bad custom?—I think that it is a bad custom, and I am abolishing it by degrees; it was part and parcel of the rent.

7313. We have heard a great deal about the rise of rents; when Mr. Copeland offered you the property he told you, did he not, that it was 1*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* a cow's grass?—He did, in one part of the property, in the Cloughaneely part; in the Gweedore part it was not so much.

7314. You have raised it a trifle on that rent, have you not?—A very trifling sum from 5 *d.* to 10 *d.* an acre.

7315. You know the townland of Ballyboes?—I do.

7316. What was the rent per cow's grass in that townland in 1798?—In 1798, the rent of a cow's grass in Ballyboes was 2*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*

7317. What is your present rent?—£.1. 10*s.* 6*d.*

7318. What is the poor-law valuation?—The poor-law valuation is 1*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*

7319. In Ray, what was the rent in 1798?—The old rent of Ray was 1*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*

7320. What is the present rent?—£.1. 10*s.*

7321. What is the poor-law valuation?—£.1. 16*s.* 8*d.*

7322. What was the rent of land in Calhame in 1798?—£.1. 15*s.* 8*d.* was the old rent in 1798.

7323. What is it now?—£.1. 10*s.* is the present rental; and the poor-law valuation is 1*l.* 17*s.*; it is now, per acre, 4*s.* 6*d.*

7324. May I take it as a general answer, that in all your property, the rent is below the poor-law valuation?—No; in the Gweedore district it is not below the poor-law valuation; it is above it in this district, for it was a peculiar place.

7325. In which townland is it above?—In Glashagh and Brinlach it is above.

7326. Is it true that, in the townland of Brinlach, you raised your rent from 45*l.* 10*s.* to 106*l.* 8*s.*?—It is not true.

7327. Exclusive of new cots?—It is not true.

7328. Did you take 1,318 acres in Glashagh into your own possession?—I dare say I did.

7329. When?—When I first got the property; not recently.

7330. Did you take some reclaimed land, where oats and corn used to grow, into your own possession without paying compensation for it?—No, it was not reclaimed land; for I do not call mountain land, treated in the way in which that had been done, reclaimed land. It did not belong to the arable land at all; some fellows went out and burned the land, and took a crop of oats off it, and ruined the land, and I got it in a worse state than if it had never been touched; I have since set part of it at a lower rent, in consequence of the way in which it had been burnt.

7331. In those two townlands of Brinlach and Glashagh, where you say the rents are above the poor-law valuation, have you abolished duty days and the payment of tithe by the tenant?—Altogether.

7332. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Are those the only two that you have in the districts

tricts which are the subject of the present inquiry?—The only ones in the Gweedore district; the others are in the Cloughaneely district.

7333. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] You did not take land that was before in cow's grass into your own possession?—No; on the contrary, I threw into cow's grass more than 100 acres of land that had never been in the cow's grass at all.

7334. Some of the sand is said to have encroached on that land; did not you give the people a tract of mountain in compensation for that?—I did; and I should like to state that it was at their own request; they came to me and told me that the sand was overwhelming their arable land and dwellings, and begged of me, before I divided the land, to give them a tract of mountain adjacent, instead of those sand banks, and I consented. I marked out then, they assisting me at the time, a lock-spit, cutting off the sand banks; I marked it on the ground, and I marked it on the maps.

7335. Have you let the sand banks since for a nominal sum?—I let them after that; they asked me to let their cattle graze upon the sand banks; but, as I was determined to have no commonage, I said I would let their cattle graze for the summer six months, for 30 *s.*, and they paid it peaceably, and were glad to get it for a couple of years.

7336. They have refused to pay it, have they not?—They have refused to pay it.

7337. And yet they take in grazing cattle on those sand banks?—When they refused to pay they took in grazing cattle, and put their own cattle upon them, and trespassed in every way they could, availing themselves of their backward situation.

7338. Did you impound the cattle?—I impounded the cattle then.

7339. It was under those circumstances that you impounded the cattle which the Committee have heard of?—It was as to some of them; and I impounded cattle on the other mountains, still to keep my right up.

7340. Do you charge a shilling of rent for the cattle grazing on unfenced mountains, and then impound the cattle if they trespass?—That is not true; it may be said to be unfenced, because the fence is a natural one, a river running through a bog six feet or seven feet deep, and the banks of that river are about 12 feet to 14 or 16 feet wide; but there are some places where the herds may make a gap through those banks, and drive the cattle across, and so commit a trespass upon my portion, and then I impound them.

7341. Have you been in the habit of keeping your tenants under constant notice to quit?—At first, when I came there, I did not do so; but latterly I have been obliged to do so.

7342. For what reason?—In the first place I will give an example: Mary Herrighty took last year from me six acres of land to increase her farm; this spring her son got married, and he went out into this new portion, and he cut a hole in the bog, about 10 feet by 7 feet. I think he covered this with a few sticks and scraws, and formed such a habitation as the Committee may have heard of, and he took his wife in to live there. I had his mother under notice to quit; and I then refused her rent, and told her that I would bring an ejectment if she did not pull this place down; she did so, and the young man and his wife have gone to America. If she had not been under notice to quit I could not have got rid of that man for 21 months.

7343. *Chairman.*] That would be the case on any estate, would it not?—That would be the case on any estate, but my object in giving notice to quit is to keep the control of the property.

7344. And to prevent subdivision?—Yes; there are two other persons not under notice to quit, who have divided their land, Nelly Gallagher of Glashagh, has divided her land with her son, Mickey Gallagher; and Charles M'Gee has divided his land with his sister. Those persons not being under notice to quit, have subdivided their land, and are living on it in spite of me at this moment.

7345. Is that a sod house?—It is a most wretched place.

7346. Mr. *Dobbs.*] The tenants being from year to year, this plan is a substitute for recovering the lease against the subletting?—That is the purpose. If they are under notice to quit, I can prevent a family being bred there, and it is a disagreeable thing for me to put out a family.

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7347. You prevent subletting by that means, where otherwise it could not be done when the tenants are from year to year?—Yes.

7348. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] With regard to Charles M'Gee, is he a poor man?—He is a poor man, he pays 26 *s.* in rent.

7349. And he divided this holding?—Yes.

7350. Was that sod hut put up on this land?—Yes.

7351. This is one of the instances given to the Committee as showing the miserable habitations of the people?—I do not know whether it has been mentioned about the sod hut, but that was not my fault, it was done against my will.

7352. It was said that you charged 6*l.* a year for the sand banks?—I did.

7353. There is a slight discrepancy between that and your former statement, will you be so good as to explain it?—I said that I charged 1 *l.* 10 *s.* for the first two years, when they were paying it quietly, but they were afterwards badly advised, and they trespassed and sublet it in every way they could; their cattle were impounded, but the people were forbidden to pay the fines laid on them by the magistrates at the petty sessions; and I believe that Mr. Cruice is prepared to state to you the affidavits that were made there. However, there was very bad work, and after this work was over, I said to the men, "As a punishment to you for your conduct, I will no longer give you it at 1 *l.* 10 *s.* a year, I will make you pay 6 *l.*, or else you shall leave it."

7354. Beyond the object of preventing subdivision, had you any other reason for serving notices to quit?—I had; I sent my bailiff one morning over to the townland of Brinlach; he came back in a very great hurry to me and told me that he had no business going there, nor I either. "Why so," said I. "Why, sir, when I went to the ground I saw the Rev. John Doherty with Darby Curran, the surveyor, and all your tenants turned out and making a road right through the middle of your own arable ground in Brinlach, and I thought to myself at the moment, I have no means of putting a stop to this, they are tenants at will; I cannot get possession of this property or punish those men; they may bring in who they like for 21 months," so I said to the bailiff when I found I could do nothing, "Go back to your business there, and tell the fellows I hope they will gravel it well and make a good job of it."

7355. Did they gravel the road?—They gave it up in three days, which showed that it was done, I think, to insult me, and for no other reason.

7356. With regard to the 300 acres of arable land on which your house is built, was it ever cow's grass?—It never was cow's grass.

7357. Even if it had been so, you had the right to take it?—If it had been, I had the right to take it, but it had not; I built a mile away, very nearly, from any habitation.

7358. There have been several individual cases mentioned here, of great distress among your tenants, but before I ask you about them, I presume you do not intend to punish any tenant for evidence given before this Committee?—I do not; I was asked whether I would not allow my bailiff go round and ask every tenant to show his receipt, because then it was said to me; "You will know who is against you, because if they have not their receipts to produce, they will be against you," but I would not do it; I did not blame the poor people, I gave my receipts to the people, and desired to have them read.

7359. The first case I would ask you about is Nancy Ferry; I see her rate is put at 1 *s.* 9 *d.* in the receipt; that was an extraordinary rate for 15 *s.*?—That is a mistake; I find it is only 9 *d.* that Nancy Ferry paid; the receipt shows that.

7360. Did you let Nancy M'Carry land in 1848?—I let her land in 1848, by written agreement.

7361. She paid no rent to 1853?—She paid no rent till 1853. She got her receipt for the first year and a half, which I allowed her for fencing the farm.

7362. Did she pay in 1850?—No, the first rent she paid was in 1854.

7363. She since then has cleared off her arrears, has she not?—She has very nearly, not quite; she thinks she will next year.

7364. That looks as though she was not in very great distress now?—She is not in very great distress now. Her son is working for me at 10 *d.* a day, and I think

I think he will have 11 *d.* for the summer months, because I left orders about him

7365. Take the case of Alexander M'Kimm; do you know him?—Yes.

7366. What is he?—He is an old beggar; a man that has been nothing but a beggar as long as I have known him. I do not think he has done a bit of work since I came to the property.

7367. Is he willing to work?—Not he. He has been on the church books, and is always getting church money, which has given him bad habits.

7368. What do you mean by church money?—The collections at the church are given to the poor, and he has been getting a large share out of it, and I suppose that has corrupted him. His brother lives beside him, and had originally the same quantity of land as this man, but he is an industrious man and is very well off.

7369. There was a case mentioned on your property of one Owen McAward, referred to at Question 4357, where the children were naked and the wife was nearly naked?—I can easily believe it.

7370. What do you know of that man?—I know that he has eight acres of ground and he pays me less than 1 *d.* a day for it, and he owes me three years rent. He was a cottier without land, but paying very nearly as much for his hovel to another tenant as he pays to me for his house and land, he is getting on well, he owes me three years' rent, but he will pay it all.

7371. This is the description given of him on the 12th of May, "There were four children naked, I might say totally naked; there was one child of three years old lying naked, the same as the moment he was born, it had no clothing of any description." Had you paid that man some money just before?—I paid him on the 24th of May 1 *l.* 6 *s.* He owed me three years' rent, and he took the 1 *l.* 6s. and went out, and after I had shut up my desk, I found him lingering about the place. He came to me and said, "I would be greatly obliged if you would take this and place it to my account for rent," which I did to oblige him.

7372. It is not your custom to take money on account?—No, I hardly ever do it, my receipts are for a year or half-year, and I did it in this case to oblige the man himself.

7373. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] What did you pay him the 1 *l.* 6 *s.* for?—For lime; he is a lime burner.

7374. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Do you know police constable Thompson, of Cross Roads?—I do.

7375. Do you go round to take the stock of your tenantry with him?—I did not, nor did I tell him to take the stock, or know that he did take an account of the stock.

7376. Did you ever tell him to promise timber to your tenantry?—I never sent a message of the sort, nor till after he had done it did I know that he had been looking round the tenantry, or taking the stock at all. I did take him on my car, and I can say why. I wanted to speak to him; I was just returning from the bog where I had been looking out some turf banks for the police, who had some difficulty about getting turf, and they applied for leave to cut turf on my bog; and on returning, just as I was coming into the village of Cross Roads, I met this man. I was rather late, and I asked him to get up on my car while I walked my horse through the village, and talked to him on the matter.

7377. Do you know Daniel O'Donnell, and is he a poor man?—Yes, I know him; he is poor, but he is very industrious, and I have given him land.

7378. He has received relief, has he not?—He has; he told me so.

7379. Was his relief stopped?—Yes; I heard it first of all, by common report; and on the 10th of this month I was driving by with Mr. Olphert, and we happened to meet this Daniel O'Donnell, and I made particular inquiry of him then about the report which I had heard. His statement to me was, that after having got half cwt. of meal, he met at Shane Gallagher's house, in Old Town, or near it, Owen Boyle, who was the man giving out relief; that they were talking of me, and that he said that "he would say I was a good landlord;" and that on the next occasion when he went to the priest's house to get a ticket for meal, he was asked by the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden if his name was Dan. O'Donnell, and he said that it was, and he got no ticket nor any further relief up to the 10th of June.

Rev. *A. B. Nixon.* He further stated that he was ready to confirm on oath, the statement which he had made to Mr. Olphert and me.

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7380. The Committee have heard of a certain Court of Arbitrators; have you ever referred cases to the priest's arbitrators?—Yes; but the priest's arbitrators, allow me to explain, are quite different from the Court. There were three respectable men appointed by the priests to decide cases in each townland, and a very good way it was of settling disputes among the people when they voluntarily went to them, and when they said "Will you, and you, and you, come and settle this thing between us?" it was very well, and quite a different thing from any Court of Arbitrators, and quite a different thing from summoning to a Court.

7381. Do you know a man named Shane Gallagher?—Yes, I do.

7382. Is he a destitute person?—No, he is not. Shane Gallagher has six acres of prime land at 8 *s.* an acre, and land that in any other country would be worth 2 *l.* an acre; but it is impossible almost to get his rent from him.

7383. Do you know Daniel McGee?—I do.

7384. Is he a destitute person?—Dan. McGee of Calhame is not at all a destitute person, he is really well to do.

7385. Do you know Dennis Boyle?—I do.

7386. Is he a destitute person?—Not at all; he is very well off.

7387. Did he receive relief?—I do not know; I never took the stock. I saw how the things were going on.

7388. Do you know Shane M'Fadden?—I do, and he is not a destitute man.

7389. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] But does he receive relief?—I really cannot tell, for I did not examine about him.

7390. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Is there any charge made for lime burning on this townland?—It is only in the townlands of Shroghan and Old Town that any lime is charged for, and there I charge 1 *d.* a barrel, as I stated, except to tenants who burn it for their own use, either for their land or their houses, and those who do so I oblige to ask permission.

7391. The case of one James M'Gee has been mentioned; did you promise him not to take any rental until he raised a crop from his land?—I never made such a promise to any man, for the agreements are all in writing. At first I did set some of those waste cuts, and did not charge any rent for the first year or two, but the consequence was that I found that they kept possession of it, and prevented others from tilling or working it, and they would not work it themselves. In consequence of that I began to have written agreements, and I charged them a rent from the date of that agreement, and the effect of that is, that the moment a man gets land he knows that he will have to pay for it, and he works at it.

7392. With regard to the state of the whole country, have wages generally increased there?—Decidedly. A man that would get 3 *l.* for working till November, some two or three years ago, will now get 5 *l.*

7393. And prices have generally risen in the country, have they not?—The price of everything has risen, except potatoes and Indian meal; they remain about the same; oats are higher this year than formerly.

7394. When you knew Ray and Ballyboe first, were there any carts in the district?—I think there were two.

7395. How many are there now?—I did not count them, but I think there are about 10.

7396. How many shops were there?—There was no shop except a shebeen-house kept by Alice M'Gee.

7397. Now, how many have you?—I put down the shebeen-house by getting a licensed public-house close to it; and there is that house, and there are three others, the tenants of which sell tobacco and tea, and those sort of things.

7398. Have you known work refused at advanced wages?—Yes. A little boy that I used to have leading a pony had 4*d.* a day, says that 6*d.* a day is too little this year; and so it is, according to the rise of wages in the country.

7399. You have not taken personally many statistics of cattle?—None whatever. I happen to know one particular case of a man who received relief named Hugh M'Fadden in April last. My servant, the man who pays Hugh M'Fadden's sons, who are in my employ, said to me that poor Hugh was doing very well, that he had either 14 or 17 head of cattle; but after the 1st of May I heard that he had lost them all with the exception of four.

7400. How

7400. How do you mean that he had lost them?—I suppose that they wandered upon the mountain, as they were not to be seen about his place.

7401. That man and his sons work constantly in your service, do they not?—That man and his sons work for me constantly, and he got relief.

7402. What are the wages of the two sons?—One has 1*s.* a-day, and the other has 9*d.*

7403. Did they get relief?—Hugh M'Fadden has done so.

7404. Do you know Owen M'Clafferty of Ray?—Yes; his son is working for me.

7405. Did he refuse to work for you any longer?—No; he refused to stay with me till the harvest; I offered him 10*d.* a day to stay till November, but he refused, and he takes 9*d.* a day, and can go when he pleases.

7406. Did he have relief?—Yes.

7407. Do you know Cormack M'Garvey; what is he?—He is a flax scutcher.

7408. What does he earn a day?—I think he earned on the average 1*s.* 4*d.* a day the whole of last winter, and he has 10*d.* a day any day that he chooses to come to me for employment, but he has not come this year.

7409. Did he get relief?—He got relief, I am told.

7410. Owen M'Ginley and Michael M'Ginley; do you know them?—They both live in the same house; they are father and son, and they are both in constant employ.

7411. Did they have relief?—They did; they had 5*s.* in money, and half a cwt. of meal.

7412. Did Owen M'Ginley get relief himself, or was it his father?—It was his father; they both live in the same house.

7413. Was this Owen M'Ginley married lately?—Yes, two or three days after he got relief. It is very curious, too, that his wife's father was relieved the day or the day before the marriage; he got 5*s.* in money, and half a cwt. of meal and Owen's father got 5*s.* and half a cwt. of meal also; and it is a very curious coincidence also, that they paid 10*s.* marriage-money that evening or the next.

7414. Did you hear anything about the wedding?—I did hear about the wedding; and a very comfortable little wedding they had.

7415. Mr. *Dobbs.*] To whom did they pay the marriage-money?—Of course to the clergyman. I do not know which of them.

7416. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Did you hear of the wedding party?—I did, from a relation of theirs, a servant of my own, who was there.

7417. Mr. *Maguire.*] What is the name of the bridegroom?—Owen M'Ginley.

7418. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] What did they have at the wedding breakfast?—It was an evening party; it was a Sunday evening; and they had salt fish, potatoes, tea, white bread and plenty of butter; and I then inquired if they had not a little whisky, and my informant said, "They had a little drop, sir," and I was very glad to hear it.

7419. Do you know anything of Neal M'Bride, whose name has been mentioned to the Committee?—I do; he is a cottier, and an old man, who never would disturb himself to go and take new land.

7420. Do you know Charles Ferry?—Yes; Charles Ferry, the tailor, is another man who has no land.

7421. James M'Gee, what is he?—James M'Gee is a broom maker.

7422. It is not fair to represent them as landholders; they are all poor people, are they not?—They are poor people, who might lock their doors and walk into the workhouse, if they are in distress, and walk out again if they choose; they have no land to give up, and I understand they are on the relief list.

7423. It is your conclusion on the whole case that there is distress among that class of people, the cottiers, but that the landholders are not in a state of destitution?—I do not know that even the cottiers are in a state of destitution, because, if they were, they would avail themselves of the poorhouse.

7424. It is a poverty-stricken district at all times, is it not?—It is not a very rich one. I found a great deal too many people on it.

7425. You would say, would you not, that their circumstances have improved since 1845?—Decidedly. They have improved very much.

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7426. You go about among them very much, do you not?—I do.

7427. Do they seem pretty well clothed?—A great many of them are very badly clothed; they do not care what clothes they wear.

7428. Are you often in their houses?—I hardly ever go into one of their houses.

7429. You therefore know nothing about their bedding?—Not at all, except when they are sick, when I have gone into their houses; otherwise I do not; and I make it a practice not to go into them.

7430. Is Phelim Coyle, of Glasshagh, a very destitute person?—He is dead.

7431. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Are the people altogether better or worse off than they were four years ago?—I think they are much better off.

7432. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You stated that you had not taken any account of the stock; had you any reason for not doing so?—After the Committee was appointed there was a rush all through the country, hiding everything; it was the talk of the whole country, and until after the Committee was appointed there was nothing given in the Cloughaneely district, where the people had not paid anything, nor amongst my tenants, except in the townlands of Brinlach and Glasshagh; and there is a curious thing about that which came to my notice; the townland of Glasshagh had been subject to a fine on account of the people there having cut the tails off some cattle in a quarrel about those very sandbanks. Mr. Cruice will be able to tell more about that quarrel than I can, but I know that the men were obliged to pay a fine on account of the tails of those cattle being cut off.

7433. Lord *Naas.*] When was that?—I dare say it was four years ago; and the report of it is in the Castle at Dublin. My bailiff told me that in the division of this money that had been collected to relieve destitution, the Glasshagh men got more money, according to their cows' grasses, than the Brinlach men. I asked him what the reason of it could be, and his answer was, "Oh, sir, I suppose it is on account of the tails." I since saw a man from Brinlach, one of my tenants, named Hugh McFadden, and I made inquiry from him whether it was a fact that the Glasshagh men got more of this relief money than the Brinlach men, and he told me that it was the fact.

7434. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Did I understand you to say that there was no relief given in Cloughaneely before the appointment of this Committee?—Before the appointment of this Committee, I never heard of any relief being given in Cloughaneely.

7435. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Did they pay the sheep tax?—They paid no sheep tax, except four cases on my own property, and they were tenants who were remarkably well off; those people paid police tax, and those people did get relief before the 1st of May.

7436. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] When you say "before the Committee was appointed," do you mean the time when this Committee was fixed, or when the House made the Order granting a Committee?—After the Committee was fixed.

Veneris, 25° *die Junii*, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bagwell.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir John Yarde Buller.	Mr. P. Wykeham Martin.
Mr. Serjeant Deasy.	Lord Naas.
Mr. Dobbs.	Sir William Somerville.
Mr. Edmund Hayes.	

JOHN BAGWELL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

The Rev. *Alexander Brown Nixon*, called in; and further Examined.

7437. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] I FORGOT to ask you yesterday one or two things, which are of some importance. I believe, being a landowner in Donegal, you are acquainted with the condition of the people in other counties of Ireland, are you not?—I am.

7438. Should you think that the condition of the people in Galway is worse than it is in Donegal?—Much worse.

7439. In what part of Galway have you been?—I have been down about Ougterard and Ballinahinch, and the appearance of the people, and the appearance of their cabins when I was there, was much worse than in Donegal.

7440. In Mayo there was a great deal of distress, was there not?—Yes, in Mayo there was a great deal of distress.

7441. *Chairman.*] To what period do you refer?—The period I used to go to Mayo was about 1835 to 1842.

7442. You do not know anything of its present condition?—No, I speak of it as it was in 1842.

7443. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Do you know anything of Westmeath at present?—Yes.

7444. Is the distress there greater than in Donegal?—The houses of the people look much better in Westmeath, but I think as to substantial comforts, as to food, and stock, and money, the peasantry about me are much better off than the people of the same class in Westmeath.

7445. Do they dress better on Sundays and market-days?—On Sundays and market-days they do dress quite as well in Donegal as in Westmeath.

7446. There is another thing that may account for the appearance of distress in the inhabitants of Donegal, they are given to hoarding?—Yes; it is quite a common thing to receive George the Third's guineas in payment of rent.

7447. They must have been buried, must they not?—I do not know where they were, but every year we receive George the Third's guineas, and this year I have got one; I never found that to be the case anywhere but there.

7448. You lived for some time in Queen's County, some 13 or 14 years?—Yes, I lived in Queen's Country 13 or 14 years.

7449. You knew the people intimately, did you not?—Very intimately indeed, and particularly the poorer orders.

7450. You were almost daily in their houses?—Yes, almost daily.

7451. Would you say that their condition was worse than that of the people of Donegal?—As to their appearance, that is far better in Queen's County, but as to substantial comforts, such as I call substantial comforts, plenty of food, stock, and things of that sort, and money, I think they are far better off in Donegal.

7452. You consider that the excitement consequent upon these transactions is doing an incalculable injury to the people?—It is doing an immensity of injury.

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7453. Do you know widow Doohan of Ray?—I mentioned her yesterday.

7454. She has a new cut of eight acres, has she not?—She has a new cut eight acres.

7455. Has she a good house?—She has built a very nice house on it, she was formerly a cottier on the property without anything.

7456. Has she talked of giving up that holding?—She has not an idea of giving it up.

7457. Is she afraid of being compelled to give it up?—No.

7458. Is she trespassed upon by other people?—She is trespassed upon by other people; she got a lot of cattle in her oats the other day, and she sent them home to the owner, Tom M'Fadden of Ray, and one of his sons told her that "the cattle had more right to be there than she had," and that she soon would have to go out of that; I made most particular inquiry about that, so as to satisfy myself of the truth of it.

7459. It is not only the landlords that suffer from the excitement, but the poor themselves?—Yes, the poor themselves suffer.

7460. Should you say that the cottiers' houses are generally better than those of the old tenants?—Some of them are a great deal better, neater, and cleaner looking than the old tenants.

7461. Could you give instances of those?—Nat M'Fadden, for one; I call him a cottier, though he had half a cow's grass, which he has sold, and gone out on a new cut entirely. I gave widow Doohan as another example, and Brien M'Garvey is another example.

7462. It is mentioned that he is in great distress?—He has got relief; and Nancy M'Corry also has got relief, who is not mentioned here.

7463. They are cottiers, are they not?—They were cottiers; and I have put them out on these little farms of 8, 10, 12, or 13 acres.

7464. In former years, when there was an appearance of distress, did the people come to you for work?—Immediately there was an appearance of distress they used to rush for work.

7465. Have you had many applications this year?—No. Last year I had, at this date, some of the people in the month of June and July came in for work; they had nothing to do till they went to Scotland, and then they came in and asked me to give them work.

7466. Has the tenant-right risen on your estate since 1846?—It has.

7467. What was the tenant-right in 1846?—£. 10.

7468. What is it now?—The last that I know of was either 19 *l.* or 23 *l.*, I am not quite sure which, but I will say 19 *l.*

7469. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Do you mean to represent that as the usual rate?—There were several of the tenants fighting to know which of them I would give it to.

7470. Mr. *Maguire.*] When was that?—I think it was about a year ago, in Ballyboes.

7471. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Should you say that the land under good cultivation would yield good crops?—I should say that under the present cultivation it does yield excellent crops, such as potatoes, oats, barley, and splendid flax; as good flax as any in Ireland.

7472. Is there any flax manufactory in the country?—Yes; I put up, some years ago, a small scutch mill. The culture of flax has so much increased that I think there are eight or nine scutch mills in the country now.

7473. Does it go to Belfast?—Mr. Steuart, of Ards, provided a market for it in Dunfanaghy, close to us, and it is sent there every second Saturday. The landlords all give their tenants good seed, and the flax is first rate.

7474. Is the district too high to yield wheat?—It is not. There was one man from Raphoe came down there, and I saw him grow excellent wheat upon what I would call poor land; far worse land than mine.

7475. You cannot plough that land, can you?—It is all ploughed.

7476. Is not spade husbandry employed?—There is very little spade husbandry.

7477. It is sometimes alleged of the Irish race that they are averse to work; is that so in your district?—It is a fact that they hardly do anything the whole of the winter; it is the rule of the country to turn out late in spring, and begin to work their lands.

7478. Is

7478. Is the idleness compulsory from want of work, or voluntary?—I should say that it is quite voluntary.

7479. What work could they do in winter?—They could prepare their land for the spring crops, they could drain it, and do many other things.

7480. Would the climate admit of that?—It would; I do it.

7481. Mr. *Maguire.*] You are the proprietor of the townlands of Ballyboe and Ray?—Yes.

7482. I think you stated, did you not, that you took into your own hands a considerable extent of mountain tract?—I did.

7483. It was 3,000 acres, was it not?—It was not so much on those two townlands, but a great deal more on the whole property.

7484. Had the people of the townlands of Ballyboe and Ray the practical use of those mountains before you came into possession of them?—So Mr. Copeland said; that he allowed them to run their cattle on those mountains until he required them.

7485. Practically the people had the privilege of using those mountains freely, and sending their cattle upon them?—Practically they had a great deal more than that, for they set them unknown to the landlord, which was an acknowledging of the landlord's right to them, for they concealed it from him.

7486. Will you limit your answer to this; I ask you practically had the people the privilege of feeding their cattle on those mountains?—So Mr. Copeland said.

7487. What was the extent of mountain of which those people were deprived?—They were deprived of no extent of mountain.

7488. I am not questioning the legal rights of either the one or the other, but practically what extent of mountain pasturage were the people prohibited from sending their cattle on?—I prohibited them from sending their cattle on 1,000 acres that they had set unknown to Mr. Copeland, and on 1,000 acres more.

7489. And how much more?—There is somewhere about 400 acres that I reserved to make new cuts on, and to give grazing to their cattle on, they paying a sum to me to acknowledge my rights.

7490. What year was that?—The year 1845.

7491. When did you come into possession of that property?—May 1845 was the first rent that I received, so that I was practically in possession of it, and received the rent from May 1844.

7492. Was there not a considerable portion of the 2,400 acres, of the use of which the people were deprived, cultivated at the time that you took it from them?—Before I can answer that question rightly, I must know what the Honourable Member means by the word "cultivated." Am I to understand that it means a part of their cows' grasses, or merely a portion of the mountain that had been burned, as I have described?

7493. Take it in the popular sense; will you simply say whether there was any portion of it very rudely cultivated?—Yes.

7494. Were there crops of potatoes and oats raised upon it?—I believe there were not potatoes raised on it by any of my tenants.

7495. You admit that oats were raised on it?—I admit that it was burnt for oats.

7496. Did you ever purchase a stack of oats from a man named Denis Sweeney, grown upon this so-called reclaimed land?—Really I cannot say.

7497. To assist your memory, did you give him 3 *l.* for a stack of oats grown upon that very land which you say was only burnt, and not reclaimed; and did you use it for seed afterwards?—I cannot say; it is very possible I did.

7498. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] Did you buy the oats from this man?—It is very possible that I did; it is a great many years ago, and I have no recollection of it.

7499. Mr. *Maguire.*] I ask, before you took that land and assumed the right to the possession of it, were there crops of oats grown upon it?—There were.

7500. And I ask you now to recall to your memory whether or not you purchased a stack of oats from a man of the name of Denis Sweeney, and paid him 3 *l.* for those oats?—I really cannot say, but I am quite sure that he had oats upon it the first year that I went there.

7501. Upon the portions of land remaining in the hands of the tenants, did you or did you not raise the rent?—I did; I called in some of the abatement.

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7502. May I ask, did you, in the last winter, require a further rise of 10*s.* in a cow's grass upon those townlands?—I did.

7503. Did you summon a number of tenants to your own house in reference to this additional rise?—They said they would come to me in a body, and I said I would be very glad to meet them.

7504. Was there any murmur or remonstrance against this rise?—Of course there was.

7505. Did you serve them with notice to quit in consequence of the objections which they then raised to a further rise in their rent?—For that and other reasons, which I have mentioned before; I should say not on all of them.

7506. You said yesterday something about Mr. Copeland having induced you to purchase the property in consequence of the mountains being available to you?—Yes.

7507. Have you a letter to prove that?—I have; I think there are two or three of them; here is one letter (*handing the same to the Honourable Member*).

7508. Will you have the kindness to read that portion of the letter which you rely upon as bearing upon the subject of the present inquiry?—"You will bear in mind in the present rent account, there is nothing for the mountain which I hold in my own right; I pay rent and tithe for about 3,000 acres, which I allow the tenants to graze in common till I require it." Those are the words relative to the mountains.

7509. I ask you, according to that letter, did Mr. Copeland give the privilege to his tenants to roam their cattle upon those mountains?—It appears by that, that he allowed them to do so.

7510. Up to the time of your possession did Mr. Copeland deprive them of that privilege?—No.

7511. In regard to duty days, did Mr. Copeland charge duty days?—He did; it was part of the rent of the land.

7512. Thirteen years ago what amount of land did Mr. Copeland hold in that district in his own hands?—He occupied a small cottage with about two acres, and he had a few acres more which he had marked out in his map as in his own hand for quarry ground.

7513. Did Mr. Copeland reclaim any portion of the couple of acres that he had marked out?—He did.

7514. Are you positive of that?—I am.

7515. When did he reclaim them?—I cannot tell when.

7516. You know that he reclaimed two acres of land; will you be a little accurate, because I want to test that, in reference to Mr. Copeland's credit?—Yes; I should say that he reclaimed it, because I saw oats upon it, and it was tilled and worked.

7517. Is not that two acres near the cottage, according to the valuation, one acre and 20 perches?—There are two acres, I am almost certain, next the cottage; I always understood so.

7518. How many families are there on those two townlands; are there not something about 90?—Really I cannot exactly say; there may be about 90 in Ray and Ballyboes.

7519. Do you mean to say that, for the cultivation of this land, which this gentleman had in his possession, he demanded duty days from those 90 families as part of their rent?—I am quite sure he did not, for he could not have given them the work; but all the work that he did get done he got done by the duty days.

7520. In the cultivation of one acre and 20 perches of land, how many people would be employed?—Very few.

7521. Do you mean to say that he got it cultivated by the people, or that he had no servants of his own?—I do not think he had any servants of his own.

7522. Had not he any labourers of his own?—I do not think that he had.

7523. Are you positive of that?—I cannot tell what amount of work there was there.

7524. Sir *John Yarde Buller.*] Had you the opportunity of seeing the people at work on the land?—No; it must have been before I came there.

7525. Mr. *Maguire.*] You state that Mr. Copeland demanded duty days as a portion of the rent; what proof have you of that?—I had the assertion of the

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son of his late bailiff, who told me that all his work was duty work; and it was only this very month that he was speaking to me about the turf banks that Mr. Copeland formerly cut, and he said that they were cut by duty men, that his turf was all cut and drawn by duty men, and all the work that he did was duty work.

7526. At any rate, the entire amount of land in his possession was two acres?—The land was in two townlands, for Mr. Copeland was a stranger, and he took an acre from each. You will find it down in two townlands, I think, in the book of the valuation.

7527. Do you approve of that system of duty days?—Decidedly not.

7528. I believe you are endeavouring to abolish it?—I am.

7529. Will you tell the Committee what steps you have taken for its abolition?—I have taken away two of the three duty days and left one.

7530. Since when?—Last year or the year before, I cannot tell you exactly which.

7531. In so important a matter of reform as that, could you not be a little more particular about the date; was it last year or the year before?—I really could not tell you; you may assume it to be either.

7532. Shall I assume it to be last year?—Just as you like.

7533. Did the former proprietor charge bog money to the people?—He did not.

7534. You do so, do you not?—I do, because I find it necessary.

7535. Do you do it for the purpose of asserting your rights?—Exactly so.

7536. At the same time the assertion of the right is rather of a profitable character?—Very little; after you pay a bailiff for going round and attending to all their banks and settling their disputes, there is very little profit about it.

7537. Can you state to the Committee what bog money is?—It is a sum paid for the right of cutting, saving, and burning the turf; a man takes as much as ever he wants for his own use, and I charge him 1 *s.* 6 *d.*

7538. Is that bog cut upon the man's own farm?—If a man cuts the turf, which some very few do, on his own land, if he cuts it for burning, he pays as well as another; the bog is cut away then.

7539. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Is that the usual charge in that district?—It is the usual charge.

7540. Mr. *Maguire.*] Does Lord George Hill charge that?—I do not know.

7541. Did not you hear Lord George Hill say that he did not?—I did not hear him say so; on a part of the property adjoining Lord George Hill's I do not charge it; the landlords around me do charge it.

7542. Could you tell the Committee what has been the poor-rate in the electoral division of Cross Roads for the last couple of years?—I cannot at this moment.

7543. Say for 1856 and 1857, two years only?—I cannot exactly tell you.

7544. Do you say that you, a landlord, do not know what poor-rate is struck in your own division?—I do.

7545. Was it 10*s.* in the pound?—No; it was somewhere about 1 *s.* 6 *d.*, or 1 *s.*, or 1 *s.* 4 *d.*

7546. Was it 1 *s.* 4 *d.* for two years?—I cannot tell; there is a gentleman in the room who was a guardian, and who could answer that question better than I.

7547. Pardon me if I ask you again, was it 1 *s.* 4 *d.* in the pound for two years?—I cannot tell you.

7548. Do you charge fines to the tenants in case their cattle trespass upon the mountains over which you have now so complete a right?—Yes, in order to preserve my right.

7549. Is the portion over which the tenants are allowed to graze their cattle now, separated from that over which you have resumed your landlord's right?—It is, by a river.

7550. Do you wish to represent that that boundary is quite sufficient to protect those mountains from trespass?—I do.

7551. Will you describe the nature of this river boundary; is it not something like two miles from a mill?—It is more than two miles from any mill.

7552. On your property, is that river sufficient to prevent trespass by the cattle on those mountains which you retain in your own hands?—I consider that it is quite.

7553. Have you examined it lately?—I know it quite well; I have not been lately on it.

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7554. Could it be forded by a sheep or a lamb?—If the tenants break a gap in the bank to let them go on to the other side it might be forded, but it is a deep river between two high banks.

7555. Is the river something like four inches deep in the summer?—It may be something like four inches deep in the summer.

7556. Is it deeper in the summer than four inches?—Parts of it are.

7557. Is the river more than three or four inches in depth in summer?—In parts it is, and in parts it is not.

7558. Cattle, and even sheep or lambs, might ford that river three or four inches deep?—They might; and I never charged trespass when there was anything of that sort.

7559. Is not it a very natural thing to suppose that the cattle of the people might at any time trespass upon that without their will?—No.

7560. Not by crossing a river four inches in depth?—No; not if the river is at the bottom of a deep gully, as it is in this case.

7561. Is it in all cases at the bottom of a deep gully; does not it change its character with every variation of the ground?—In one part it is not so deep, and in others it is.

7562. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What is the depth?—I suppose the depth of the banks may be five feet to six feet; I could not get across it myself.

7563. Mr. *Maguire.*] I think you have endeavoured to represent to the Committee that your tenantry are in a better condition than they were in formerly, in this townland?—Most decidedly.

7564. Do you know Patrick Harkin, of Ray?—I do.

7565. Are that man's circumstances better now than they were some years ago?—They are not.

7566. Has he a larger amount of stock now than he had before?—I should say not.

7567. Has he any stock now?—I do not know; I have not inquired.

7568. You talked about substantial comforts, and drew a comparison between Westmeath and Queen's County and this district, showing the advantage which the people here possessed, in substantial comforts, over the people of Westmeath and Queen's County, and now I ask you has that tenant of yours, Paddy Harkin, sufficient day clothing?—He may have.

7569. May he not have?—He may have sufficient clothing.

7570. I ask you now, has that man day clothes, or has he night covering for the purposes of decency?—He has.

7571. Has he day clothes?—He has.

7572. Has he night covering?—I cannot tell.

7573. With regard to his day clothes, why did you hesitate a while ago?—You asked me if he might have a particular sort of clothes; decent, respectable clothes; and I said he might have them.

7574. Was that man unable to go to chapel on Sundays for the last four years, in consequence of the dilapidation of his clothing?—He might have gone if he liked. Whenever he wants anything he comes to me for work, and he gets it.

7575. Does he pay rent to you?—Yes.

7576. Is that 1 *l.* 7 *s.* 9 *d.*?—Somewhere about that.

7577. Now, take the case of Widow Grace Harkin; has she substantial comforts?—I should say she has; she has improved.

7578. Would you take stock as an indication of substantial comfort?—I would.

7579. Has she stock?—I never looked after her stock, or inquired about it.

7580. Are her clothes indicative of substantial comfort?—Indeed, when I meet her, as she goes to Dunfanaghy, she looks very comfortable.

7581. Is the woman unable to go to chapel, in consequence of the badness of her clothing?—I believe she can go if she likes.

7582. Do you know if she has proper clothing?—I think she has. I do not know.

7583. Owen Ferry, of Ballyboes; is that man remarkable for the enjoyment of substantial comforts; has he stock?—I do not know what stock he may have, but there is not a happier man than he is in all the country; he is in my work summer and winter.

7584. I suppose he is happy like Diogenes, who only possessed a tub?—He has got a new cut, and has improved it very much. He has good crops on it.

7585. Is

7585. Is he obliged to send away the only cow he has, as he has no grazing of his own?—I think not, for he has grazing of his own on the new cut that he took of four acres, and more than that.

7586. I think you mistake about this man; he has no new cut?—If he is old Ferry, of Ballyboes, whom we commonly call King William, he has a new cut.

7587. I want to ask you a question, in order to make him of immortal memory; is his majesty in just the very same condition with regard to clothing as the king of Congo is, one of the monarchs on the coast of Africa; is this poor king almost naked now, or is his majesty well clothed?—He is almost naked; but he shaves once a year.

7588. James M'Fadden, of Ballyboes; do you know him?—I have a James M'Fadden in Ballyboes.

7589. Is he, with regard to clothes, as well off as his majesty King William?—I think there must be some mistake about him, for James M'Fadden is a young man always remarkably decent and neat in his appearance, and particularly well dressed; he is one of the nicest fellows; always neat and clean.

7590. I am speaking of James M'Fadden, an old man, who happens to be a tenant of yours, and he lives in Ballyboes; and I want to know has that man any stock at the present moment?—I think you must be mistaken. I do not know the James M'Fadden that you mean; there is only one James M'Fadden in Ballyboes that I know of; there is old Brian M'Fadden; you may mean him.

7591. James Doohan, of Ballyboes; do you know him?—Yes, he was a very poor man, one of my tenants; he has got only a small holding.

7592. Are that man's circumstances very much improved?—Very much improved.

7593. Has he stock at this moment?—I cannot tell.

7594. Had he stock before?—I cannot tell.

7595. Do you know that that man had formerly four cows, a horse, and a flock of sheep, and that he has one cow now, on credit, and that that is his entire stock?—I know nothing at all about it.

7596. Do you know that that man has kept away from chapel in consequence of his bad clothing, although his circumstances are so such improved?—I do not know; I never knew him to be well clothed since I came there.

7597. With regard to the wedding you spoke of last night, which excited the laughter of the Committee, what was the name of the happy bridegroom?—Owen M'Ginley.

7598. I think you stated that this man, the bridegroom, got relief?—No, I did not.

7599. What did you say on that subject?—I said that his father got relief, living in the same house with him, and being in my employment daily, and the son also is in my employment.

7600. What rate of wages has Owen?—His wages were 9 *d.* a day if he went away from me in the harvest; and 10 *d.* if he would consent to remain.

7601. Is he in your employment now?—He is.

7602. You say that there was a wedding feast?—There was.

7603. I think you described the viands on the occasion, did you not?—I did.

7604. Do you know of your own knowledge whether those dainties were provided by that man and his father, or were given to him by his neighbours, and were brought to the house by the people who attended the wedding?—I am almost as certain as that I sit on this chair that they all belonged to the people who were married.

7605. Give me a positive proof, as you have so positively asserted it?—I know so much of the spirit of the men that they would not accept of it.

7606. Is that all that you are able to say upon the matter; is that your only proof?—That is my only proof, except that my servant, who told me of those things, was a brother-in-law, and was at the wedding.

7607. Have you long known that district?—Since 1845.

7608. Do you not know that it is a common habit of the peasantry, when they come to a festival of that kind, to bring the materials for the feast; is that common or is it not?—Certainly not; they never do it at soirées.

7609. Do you know, of your own knowledge, that they never do?—I have been told so by themselves.

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7610. Have you been told that they never, under any circumstances, contribute towards the materials for a marriage feast?—I never heard of such a thing before.

7611. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] If they did do so, the neighbour could not be in a state of destitution, having those delicacies to bring?—They had a rough abundance, but no delicacies.

7612. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was not not this wedding attended by a number of young men, the bridegroom's neighbours?—I do not believe it was; I heard that it was a very quiet little wedding.

7613. Do you know whether it was not attended by a number of young men, all in your employment?—I do not know; I believe it was not.

7614. You spoke in reference to a road; first of all, are there any agricultural carts in Brinlac, Glashagh, Carrick, Coyle, and Bloody Foreland?—I believe there are not.

7615. How many families are there upon those townlands?—On my land I should say there are about 90 odd.

7616. Is there any road communicating with those townlands?—There is the county road.

7617. Where does it run?—It runs down to Brinlac from Glenhola.

7618. Are there any roads between the Bunbeg Store and those townlands?—No direct road; you must go round.

7619. With regard to this road which you say the Rev. Mr. Doherty attempted to make; do you remember when the "Connaught Ranger" was wrecked on that coast?—I do.

7620. Do you remember that Sir James Stewart, the Rev. Mr. Doherty, and others were in your cottage in Glashagh some four or five years since, and that the subject of the very road to which you alluded yesterday was the topic of conversation?—I am quite certain that it was not.

7621. Did Sir James Stewart take any interest in respect to the opening of this road, or the projection of this road?—Not the least; and if he had known anything about it he would have spoken to me on the subject.

7622. Do you know that that road of which you spoke yesterday was marked out so far back as the year 1837?—I do not, nor ever heard of it before.

7623. Do you deny that that was marked out so far back as 1837; that is to say, marked out and lock-spitted by a Government officer?—I do not believe it. I have walked 20 times over the place, and I never saw a lock-spit.

7624. Was not it done by the Rev. Mr. Freil and Mr. Penfold as the Government officer?—I never heard of it.

7625. After the Rev. Mr. Doherty had set to work about this road, did you meet him on the road between Dunfanaghy and Falcarragh, and did you or did you not express yourself pleased with the exertions that the Rev. Mr. Doherty had made to open up that same road?—Never.

7626. Do you distinctly say that?—I do.

7627. Did you never have any conversation with the Rev. Mr. Doherty as to that road?—Never.

7628. Would you oblige me for a moment by remembering the evidence that you gave yesterday, in reference to cutting the tails off the cows; when did that happen; when was that atrocity perpetrated?—I forget the exact date; it was four or five years ago, I think.

7629. Was it three years ago?—More; I think it was four or five; there is a person in town who could tell this exactly.

7630. About the time that that atrocity was perpetrated, had you or not any dispute with your tenants in Glashagh about the grazing and the raising of the rents?—Not about raising the rents; I had some dispute about the grazing.

7631. Did you make frequent applications at that time to get a police station there?—I did not.

7632. Did you tell the people that you had?—I have no recollection of having done so.

7633. I believe after this outrage was perpetrated, the police were sent there; is that not the fact?—There were coast-guards there; I am not sure about the police being sent.

7634. Were the police sent there, and are they there still?—No, they have not been there since that until recently.

7635. Who

7635. Who was your bailiff at that time?—Hugh Sweeney.

7636. Had that Hugh Sweeney been in Lord George Hill's employment before he was in yours?—He had.

7637. Was he dismissed from Lord George Hill's employment or was he not?—I cannot tell, I suppose he was, as he was out of employ, but that is the only means of knowing it that I have.

7638. Was it generally charged that that same man, your bailiff, was the person who perpetrated that diabolical outrage upon those animals?—It was said so, but it was proved to the satisfaction of the persons who tried it that it was not he.

7639. Was any person convicted of it?—No.

7640. Was it brought home to any person's door?—No, it was not.

7641. What did you, then, mean by saying yesterday that a larger amount of relief was given upon the townland upon which this abominable and atrocious outrage was perpetrated than upon the neighbouring townland, upon which no such abomination was practised?—That was not exactly what I said; I stated the fact as I heard it, and I gave my authority.

7642. Who are the administrators of this relief?—I cannot tell you.

7643. Do you know that it is the Catholic clergymen, or do you not?—I believe they collect the money, but whoever distribute it, I believe, distribute it by their orders.

7644. Therefore they have the control over it?—They have the control over it.

7645. I ask you this question, whether rightly or wrongly, was your bailiff charged with that outrage, or was he not?—I believe he was charged, and that charge was not entertained for one moment.

7646. Was any other person charged?—I forget.

7647. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Has your bailiff, Sweeney, been hurt in any way?—He has since that time.

7648. What was the injury done to him?—His ears were cut for doing quite another business, because he went to point out a house to the poor-rate collector.

7649. Have any persons been tried for cutting off the man's ears?—Yes, several; not tenants of mine though.

7650. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was not a man imprisoned wrongfully for four years upon the oath of that man, with respect to that very fact?—I do not believe it.

7651. Did not Lord George Hill write a memorial in favour of this very man, who was four years imprisoned upon the oath of this bailiff?—I really never heard that he did.

7652. As the distributors of this relief are more or less impugned by the statement that you have made, I will ask you this: have the priests preached violence or the contrary in this district?—I do not know what they have preached.

7653. May I ask you, do you know, of your own knowledge, that one of those very clergymen was the means of protecting you yourself from personal injury?—I do not.

7654. Was it ever told to you by a member of the constabulary?—Not that I recollect.

7655. Were you never told that the Rev. Mr. Doherty was the means of protecting you from personal injury?—Not that I recollect.

7656. Would not you be likely to remember a thing that interests yourself?—I would.

7657. Do you say positively that no such thing occurred, and that no such statement was made to you?—I will not, for I got letters from the Rev. Mr. Doherty, warning me and advising me.

7658. I think you have said something about a man named Shane Gallagher, from whom you cannot get rent?—I have.

7659. Cannot you get rent from him?—I find great difficulty in getting it, but I make him pay.

7660. As to the poor-rate, you charge half rate, do you not?—Yes; I ought to have charged the whole, according to the agreement.

7661. What was the rate in 1856?—It was 1 *s.* 6 *d.*, according to what the Honourable Member said.

7662. Will you read to the Committee that receipt, if you please?—"£. 1. 10 *s.* 11 *d.*, half rate 1 *s.* 11 *d.*

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7663. What would that make on the whole; is that a fair proportion of that man's rent?—It is a fair proportion, unless I make a great mistake.

7664. How do you make that out?—In this way; the poor-rates are paid first of all upon the valuation.

7665. Is not the valuation lower than the rent?—The valuation is very considerably higher than the rent; it is very nearly one-fourth higher than the rent in that part; the valuation of that man's land is within a few pence of 2 *l.*; I am speaking of the poor-rate valuation, according to which the rate is paid by me, and therefore in all those receipts, if you calculate, you will find that my rent is considerably under the poor-law valuation; you will find it is pretty nearly correct. The rate is struck upon the valuation, and not upon the rental, and therefore in the rate that I allow where the tenant pays the rate, it will appear that I do not pay the full half of what he has paid the poor-rate collector, because his land is held considerably under the valuation.

7666. Is Shane M'Fadden of Ballyboes' valuation higher than his rent; I think he pays 1 *l.* 10 *s.*?—It is a great deal higher than his rent.

7667. Why is it that Shane M'Fadden, with a rent of 1 *l.* 10 *s.*, pays a half rate of 1 *s.* 6 *d.*, while Shane Gallagher pays a rent of 2 *l.* 1 *s.* and only pays 1 *s.* 3 *d.* rate, the two receipts being given in the same year; will you explain that?—The poor-law valuation of Ballyboes for the land held by M'Fadden is 1 *l.* 19 *s.* 3 *d.*; the poor-law valuation of Old-town, the land that Gallagher holds, is 1 *l.* 14 *s.* The valuations differ; the valuation is lower on Old-town than it is on Ballyboes.

7668. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Therefore the rates differ?—Therefore the rates would appear higher in Ballyboes.

7669. Mr. *Maguire.*] How does it happen that the poor-rate value is actually higher than the rental; is that common in the district?—Because, in 1832, Mr. Finley, as I stated before, reduced the rent one-third to get rid of his uncle.

7670. What proof have you of that?—My late agent, and Mr. Copeland's agent, who is a neighbour of mine, and who was agent in Mr. Finley's time, told me so, and I find that corroborated by receipts which I produced yesterday.

7671. Did Mr. Copeland charge the poor-rate to the tenants?—It was not collected in his time.

7672. What time did you come into possession?—In 1844; there was no poor-rate then.

7673. When was it first struck?—I cannot say; it was after I came in.

7674. Was not there a poor-rate due on that property when Mr. Copeland left?—I am not sure; I think it was tithe.

7675. I am talking of poor-rate?—I cannot be sure.

7676. Did not Daniel Gallagher, the poor-rate collector, arrest him in reference to poor-rate due at this time?—I am not quite sure whether it was poor-rate or tithe.

7677. Did the poor-rate collector arrest him for tithe due on the lands before your occupation of them?—I cannot be sure; I do not believe the rate was collected till after it was sold to me, but he made the agreement.

7678. Did not the poor-rate collector go to Enniskillen after Mr. Copeland, in reference to the poor-rate, as the owner of this property, after you became possessed of it?—I am not certain.

7679. You cannot tell whether the poor-rate was collected before you occupied the property or not?—It was just about the time that I came in that they began to collect the poor-rate; but as to the exact date, I cannot tell that.

7680. I only ask you, was the poor-rate collected upon that property of which you are now possessed, before you came into occupation of it?—I believe not.

7681. You said something about 1 *d.* a head that you charged for grazing; was that for a sheep, or a horse, or a cow?—For a sheep or a horse, or a cow, I charged 1 *d.* for the six months summer grazing; I say nothing at all about the winter.

7682. In reference to the administration of the poor-law, are there many persons above 15 years of age in the poorhouse, whose fathers and mothers are out of the poorhouse?—I do not know, for I am not a member of the Board.

7683. I think you spoke of one boy that you saw running in and running out of the poorhouse?—Yes.

7684. Do you know of any other cases of the kind?—No; but that one was quite enough to teach the people what their rights were in that respect.

7685. Do

7685. Do you believe that members of a family can go into the poorhouse while the others remain outside?—I am sure of it.

7686. How do you know that?—Because I sent Mary M'Carroll's daughter there from the midst of them, and the case of the boy is enough to teach them their rights in this respect.

7687. How many adults are there under those circumstances in the workhouse?—I cannot tell; there was hardly one when I was there the other day.

7688. When were they running in and out?—The case of this little boy happened some four or five years ago, I think.

7689. I believe Lord George Hill does not charge for kelp on his estate?—No, he does not assert his rights in that respect.

7690. Nor does he assert his rights in reference to bog money?—I believe not.

7691. Nor does he assert his rights in reference to lime?—His tenants do not burn lime. I believe he does not assert his rights.

7692. Nor does he assert his rights in reference to the poor-rate?—He made no agreement with his tenants.

7693. You said something as to wages, that there was a boy who wanted advanced wages; that he was getting 4 *d.*, and wanted 6 *d.*; what was the age of that boy?—He may have been from 12 to 14.

7694. That is all the evidence that you give as to the advanced wages in the district?—Not at all; there are many other cases.

7695. You do not like to see such things as turf huts on your property; you represented that you were rather indignant at a man who had a turf hut?—The son of Mary Herrighty was subdividing the land, and making a hovel in a turf bank, and I did not like it.

7696. There are a good many persons on your property, are there not, who have merely mud hovels?—There are very few indeed with merely mud hovels.

7697. You stated in answer to my Honourable friend that the people, in point of substantial comforts, were indeed superior to the people of Westmeath and Queen's County?—I think so.

7698. Allow me to ask you, do you know Dan Curran, of Stroughan?—I do; he is a poor squatter.

7699. Has he not a new cut from you; one of those admirable cuts, four acres in extent?—Yes; and he is better off now than when he had none.

7700. Does he not pay you rent?—He does.

7701. A halfpenny a day?—I really do not know.

7702. What did you mean by talking to the Committee about a halfpenny or a penny a day; would not a penny a day for those four acres of mountain cut just represent 30 *s.* a year?—Very nearly 30 *s.* a year.

7703. Has not that man a mere hovel scooped out of the turf bank for a residence?—It is not scooped out of the turf bank; it is not a mere hovel; and he is this very year building himself a new house, as he is well off this year.

7704. How long did he occupy this turf hovel?—He has occupied this turf hovel for two or three years, but he was so well off this year that he could build a new house, and he has begun it.

7705. Did you see this new mansion which this Daniel Curran is building?—Yes.

7706. When did you see it?—I saw a man building a house in the beginning of this month, and I inquired whose it was, and I was told that it was Dan Curran's.

7707. Did Owen M'Award also occupy a mud hovel, or house, equal to the farms of Westmeath?—I said that the houses, and the appearance of the people of Westmeath were much better.

7708. Does this man occupy a new cut and a mud hovel?—He occupies a new cut and a very snug little house.

7709. Was not that the hovel in which the witness, Boyle, found a girl of three years old completely naked?—Yes, so he said, and I have no doubt he did, and that she was stripped for him.

7710. What proof have you of that; that the girl was stripped for an object?—My proof is the character of the mother; a fine, spirited woman who would not be last in the fashions; she is a fine, handsome, spirited woman.

7711. Would that same high-spirited woman strip her child for the purpose of imposture?—Yes, for a show; she would take the lead in anything.

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7712. The witness said that there was a child lying naked by the fire?—He may have said so; I dare say there was.

7713. You think that that high-spirited mother stripped her child for the purpose of making a show?—I think it very likely.

7714. Does Michael M'Award occupy a new cut?—He occupies a most wretched house.

7715. With regard to the crops grown upon those new cuts, upon which people have been so prosperous, do you know that Michael M'Award sowed seven stone of oats last year on his ground, and that the produce of it all was but nine stone?—I do not know.

7716. Do you know to the contrary?—I do not know at all.

7717. Do you know Dan O'Donnell?—Yes, well.

7718. Has he a mud hut?—It is not altogether mud, it is mud and stones mixed.

7719. I will take you to the townland of Old-town, and I will go through the list of names; Michael M'Dafferty, of Old-town; Charles M'Carroll, Jack Doohan, Shane Doogan, Hugh M'Garvey, John Herrighty, and James Brogan, are all those men occupying mere mud hovels, and are they not, with the single exception of Charles M'Carroll, in a miserable condition?—I do not consider that they are in a miserable condition; most of those that you have named were cottiers without any land when I put them on the property, and they are improving much in their circumstances.

7720. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Are they better off than they were four years ago?—Yes, much better; I bought a turbot of Hugh M'Garvey the other day.

7721. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was the Sybarite going to eat the turbot himself if you had not bought it?—I do not know what he was going to do with it, but I suppose he was going to sell it.

7722. Turbots do not bring a high price in that district, do they?—It was about 6 lbs. weight, and I gave him 1 *s.* 6 *d.* for it; he had an ass's load of fish, and I think that is a proof that he could not be in destitution.

7723. Does Alexander McKimm pay rent?—He is a beggar; his son pays rent for him.

7724. You state that you do not know anything about the stock in your townlands?—No, except in one family, which I know by chance.

7725. Did you see the evidence of the witness Owen Boyle, of Cross Roads?—I did not pay particular attention to it.

7726. How long is it since you were in the townlands of Magheralosk, Brinlach, and Glashagh?—Not for a long time.

7727. Might not the people be as miserable as has been depicted by the witnesses here without your knowing anything about it?—No.

7728. Did you visit those people?—No; I was told by a police officer, the constable, that they were quite astonished at the prosperous state of the tenantry I had over there; that there were no people in the country more comfortable or better off.

7729. Have you seen the poor-rate collector in London?—I have.

7730. You stated yesterday that, on the townland in which there had been some cows' tails cut off some years ago, you understood that there was a higher rate of relief given than in another; did you intend to throw any imputation upon any person by that; will you just answer me, yes or no?—I meant to state the facts, and let the Committee draw their own inference; and I meant also to state the inference which was drawn by the country people themselves.

7731. Sir *Wm. Somerville.*] You are the proprietor of Glashagh, are you not?—Yes.

7732. Are you well acquainted with the condition of your tenantry in that district?—From report I am; but there have been latterly such disturbances and such annoyances going on in that district that I have hardly ever visited it; but I have reports from the bailiffs and the police who go there, and they represent to me that the condition of the people is remarkably prosperous.

7733. Have you your bailiff here, or anyone who could speak from his own personal observation of the condition of the district?—I have not.

7734. Statements of so strong a nature have been made in reference to that district, and which bear so particularly and directly upon the object for which this Committee has been appointed, that it would seem highly desirable to have some evidence upon their real condition. So far as your own knowledge goes, can you

you give any information to the Committee as regards the condition of your tenants in that district, with reference to such a statement as this, that they are in such a condition that sea-weed enters largely into their dietary, and that without the use of that sea-weed they would suffer extreme hunger, and perhaps death?—I am perfectly satisfied that it is utterly untrue; they are the best off and the best clothed tenants that I have. When they come over to pay rent to me they almost all come riding on their horses, and they have been remarked often and often about my place as being the best clothed and the most respectable body of men that come near the house at all.

7735. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did you say that there was an agreement with reference to the poor-rate before you came to the district?—Before I purchased the property.

7736. Did you not say that there was no poor-rate collected on the property before you came?—I did.

7737. And yet you state that there was an agreement with reference to the poor-rate?—Yes.

7738. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You purchased the property on that agreement?—Yes.

7739. Lord *Naas.*] In the evidence of the Rev. Mr. Doherty, at Question 1754, he was asked by Mr. Maguire, "Are you positive that both the poor-rate and the property tax are charged to the tenants paying under 4 *l.* a year?" (That is alluding to your estate.) And Mr. Doherty says, "As to the property tax, I am not so sure, but as to the poor-rate I am." Have you any statement that you would like to offer to the Committee on that point, as to the payment of poor-rates by your tenants who are valued under 4 *l.* a year?—I stated it fully yesterday, and gave an extract from Mr. Copeland's letter, which I then produced, showing that the tenants had met him in a body, and that they had entered into agreement with him that they would pay the poor-rates. I found that agreement in existence, and it has never been objected to by a single tenant.

7740. I asked the witness, "Are you aware that the law, as it stands, does not render the occupier liable to pay the poor-rate, if he is an occupier under 4 *l.*?" and his reply was, "I am; and the clerk at the Dunfanaghy Union told Mr. Nixon that he was actually illegal in charging the poor-rates, and he said that he would change it to another name, but he would still charge it." Have you any statement that you would like to offer to the Committee in reference to that?—I would wish to say that what Mr. Doherty said must have been taken down wrong; he could not have said such a thing, having in his hands my receipts, in which the poor-rate that I collected was plainly stated; it would be a base thing of me to collect it under another name.

7741. Are you aware of this, that by the 3d section of the 6th and 7th Victoria, chapter 92, in the last paragraph of it, it is enacted, that "any covenant or agreement by which any such occupier shall have covenanted or agreed to forego the deduction of any such rate shall, so far as such rate is concerned, be of no effect;" are you aware that there is such a clause in the Poor-law Act?—I was not.

7742. Are you not aware that such an agreement is illegal?—I am not aware of that.

7743. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did not you raise your rent, and charge poor-rate at the same time?—I did not call in the whole of the abatement.

7744. Did you serve notice to quit on a man named Daniel M'Gee?—I did, because he was not paying me rent enough.

7745. Did not he refuse to pay the poor-rate?—No.

7746. Was there any conversation between you and him about the income tax?—Very likely; I said to him, as I should say to anyone, that I thought it a shamefully hard thing that I should be paying income tax for such a set of fellows; for when the Donegal Militia came into the district recruiting, they could get no man to recruit in Mr. Doherty's parish, and I did not think it fair that I should be paying income tax for such people.

7747. Notwithstanding that conversation you endeavoured to impose income tax upon him, did you not?—I did not do it; that man is paying less rent than his neighbours.

7748. Did not Daniel M'Gee refuse to pay the poor-rate?—No.

7749. Did you ask him to pay the income tax?—No.

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7750. Did not he say that the amount which you were charging was more than you had a right to charge?—I did not charge Daniel M'Gee the poor-rate.

7751. I am referring to Daniel M'Gee, of Calhame?—I never charged him poor-rate.

7752. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You thought that you were carrying out a legal and a just agreement?—Yes.

7753. And so far from doing it in any way in concealment, you entered it upon the back of every man's receipts?—I was most particular in doing so.

7754. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] You were about to read a passage from Mr. Copeland's letter, relating to that agreement?—Will you have the goodness to do so now?—"The tenants are bound to pay the tithe and poor-rate when it is called on; I made a bargain or agreement that they would pay both."

7755. Mr. *Maguire.*] What was the date of that letter?—The 27th of January 1844, before I purchased the property; he says again, on the 1st of February, "When the poor-rates were talked of I collected the tenants and asked them, would they pay the poor-rate tax without any trouble to me; they agreed they would pay it and give me no trouble."

7756. What tenants are those that he refers to; are they under or over 4 *l.*?—Under 4 *l.*

7757. You state that the tenants did not remonstrate against the payment of the poor-rate?—Yes.

7758. Had they any power to resist you?—They had; they were not then under notice to quit.

7759. Have they had, for the last four or five years, any power to resist your demand of poor-rates, however illegal it might have been?—They might have done so.

7760. Have not you the power in your hands to compel them to pay them?—If I chose to raise the rent I might do it, but I do not.

The Rev. *Charles Frederick Stewart*, called in; and Examined.

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7761. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] YOU are rector of the parish of Clondahorkey, are you not?—Yes.

7762. In the district of Cloughaneely?—No, not in the district of Cloughaneely, but I have property in the district of Cloughaneely, although I am not rector of the parish.

7763. You are a proprietor, as well as rector of the parish of Clondahorkey?—Yes.

7764. Have you been constantly resident there?—Yes, constantly.

7765. How many years have you resided there?—Since the year 1831.

7766. Do you manage your own property?—I manage my own property in every way, and collect my own rents.

7767. And you are intimately acquainted with the condition and habits of the people, are you not?—Yes, intimately.

7768. Have you lately let any of your mountain to Scotch tenants?—I have not.

7769. Have you ever, with one or two trifling exceptions, raised your rents?—I have never raised my rents. The property came into my hands at my father's death, in 1840, and I have never raised the rent with the exception of the townlands of Meenagoppog and Procklish.

7770. Was that a material rise?—Yes; they paid my father about 7 *l.* a year each, and I raised them to 12 *l.* each, or thereabouts; there may be a few shillings more.

7771. At what period was that?—I think it was about 1844, immediately after my getting the property.

7772. And there has been no rise of rent since 1844?—Not one farthing.

7773. Are you aware whether any fund, called the "Relief Fund," has been distributed on your property?—I am aware that it has been.

7774. Did you understand that it was in consequence of the destitution of your tenants that relief was administered to them?—So I heard.

7775. If they were destitute, it was not from the same causes that operated in other districts, namely, the raising of your rents, and the letting of your mountains to Scotchmen?—It could not be so.

7776. Therefore,

7776. Therefore, so far as your property is concerned, that statement in the appeal is totally unfounded?—I think so, that is my opinion of it. I can tell the Committee how it first came to my knowledge that relief was distributed to my people. There are people that I see on the relief list whom I had no knowledge of when I left home, but in consequence of the appeal, and the talk of the country, I thought that I would visit my tenants, and see in what state they were. Since I came to London I saw Mr. James M'Fadden's relief list, and from that list I took down the names of the people whom I had visited, I think, about the middle of May; and I find one at No. 71, Thomas M'Causland of Clonbarra. On my visit, I found this Thomas M'Causland and his son both working at their trade of blacksmith in their own forge, and I made inquiry from the people in the district what their return for their labour was likely to be, and I was informed that they could earn from 3 *s.* to 4 *s.* a day. I have in that townland a considerable extent of turbary; and that turbary is all in my own hands, I may say, because it does not supply my own tenants alone, but the tenants of my neighbour, Mr. Olphert, and different other proprietors, whom I allow to cut on it. I drained and improved a part of that bog, and I still hold it on; and with a view to maintain my right, and to prevent any attempt hereafter to prove that it ever did belong to the tenants, I charge them a nominal trespass for their cattle. I have a list of the number of cattle that those tenants living there possess, and I think it must be a correct list. I did not look at the stock, because those tenants, in order to secure their payment of the trespass, pay the money beforehand; but my bailiff has returned to me the names of the tenants who had stock, and the money that they paid, and he would not have advanced it for them, and I think they would not have given him the money, unless they had cattle to send.

7777. You were going on to mention other instances of the condition of people who have received relief?—I am accounting to the Committee for how I have the stock of those people, although not being aware of their being on the relief list till I came to London and saw Mr. M'Fadden's list. I had not then got their numbers. Thomas M'Causland, No. 71 on the list, has a forge, and he has five cows, and a horse and cart. No. 72, his daughter Grace M'Causland, I see on the relief list. I think she must be a daughter of his; I have only one family of M'Causland tenants on that townland. I see also James M'Causland's name as receiving aid in that townland, No. 369.

7778. What is their condition?—They all live with their father; it is the same holding, and I think it is the same family.

7779. Will you come to the next case?—Manus Ferry, No. 162; he has two cows. Dennis Cannon, in that townland, No. 455, has two cows. Dennis Conaghan I see on the list; he has four cows, and he is No. 457. I see also the name of my bog-man, John Cannon, No. 500. On looking over my bog, I counted on his farm four cows. He pays me a rent of 2 *s.* 6 *d.* a year. I put him into that place, and allowed him to reclaim a piece of ground, and my friend Mr. Olphert tells me that he gave him, a few days before he left home, 4 *l.* for cutting and saving his turf. He is on the relief list. That relief has all been given out since the 1st of May. On the 3d of May I went up to the townland of Meenagoppog, which is close to where Mr. Hunter holds the townland of Alton.

7780. Did this townland, which you are now going to describe, pay the police tax?—It paid the police tax.

7781. Mr. *Dobbs.*] In the other townland which you have just spoken of, did they pay the police-tax?—No, they paid no extra tax of any kind.

7782. Sir *Edward Hayes.*] Their relief came to them after the 1st of May, after this Committee was granted?—Yes.

7783. The townland of Meenagoppog was subject to the police tax?—Yes.

7784. Will you state a few cases where relief was given in that townland, and the dates?—I cannot exactly tell the date, but it was given before the 3d of May, when I visited it; it was given, I think, before the 1st of May.

7785. Was it given to them before relief was given to the other townland?—It was, decidedly.

7786. Will you give the Committee two or three cases as samples?—I went by the request of the tenants to Meenagoppog for the settling of a mering fence that was in dispute between them. I left my horse and car at some distance, and walked across the bog to them; Hugh Roarty, on seeing me coming to his house, came to show me the best way to get across the bog. When I arrived at his

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his house, it had been a very wet day, and I was wet up to the knees; I went into his house at once to discuss the matter under cover; I sat down in Roarty's house near the fire, and discussed the matter about their merings and everything they required of me, and I dried my legs at the fire, and Roarty got up and offered me something to drink; I thought he meant some spirits; which I declined, telling him that I never drank anything of that kind in the morning; the man then very kindly offered to have some tea made for me. His son had been lately married, and his daughter-in-law was sitting in the corner of their house making a gown of, I think, a good description of calico; and there was no appearance of want. The earliest chickens that I saw this year I saw in his house, and I saw his wife feeding them. The man told me that he had got 2 cwt. of meal, and that amounted to about half the value of the tax he had paid. I counted his stock, and I found that he had two horses. On one occasion I rode one of his horses myself, and I counted 23 cows on his farm. He has some sheep; I was told 60, and I saw a number of sheep; but, being near-sighted, I did not count them. There is another man on that townland, Ned Gallagher. He told me he had had 2 cwt. of meal; he has two horses; he told me he had 18 cows; I did not count them, but he told me on the spot that he had 18; I am near-sighted, and I did not count them myself on the mountain. There is one other tenant on that townland, Teague Gallagher, whom I consider the wealthiest man on the townland; he had a son lying in a fever, and I did not go near him; but his neighbours told me he had the same quantity of meal, and he paid the same amount of tax; for I saw them all pay their tax.

7787. Was the bedding and clothing in these houses as comfortable as you are in the habit of seeing in that country?—Certainly; as comfortable, I should think, as need be, for real warmth and the health of the people; they are not what we would like to sleep on, very likely; but from habit they have not good bedding, not from want of means to get them.

7788. If the Committee required, you could give more examples of a similar nature?—I have my rental here, and I can at least produce 20 names more.

7789. Is it your opinion from those facts that, previous to the 1st of May, relief was given not to the destitute, but to those who paid the tax?—Undoubtedly.

7790. Your property is adjoining Mr. Olphert's, is it not?—My property, in some parts, adjoins Mr. Olphert's; that part of Meenagoppog and Procklish which we were talking of, and Alton, Mr. Woodhouse's property, which Mr. Hunter, a Scotch settler holds, runs in dovetail between the two towns.

7791. Are you acquainted with Mr. Olphert's property?—Very well.

7792. Is it a mountainous district?—Yes.

7793. Is it your opinion that Mr. Olphert's tenants have sufficient grazing, independent of the portion which he has let to Scotchmen?—In consequence of the outrages that have been committed, Mr. Olphert and I, being the two nearest magistrates in the district, have gone for the last 18 months, time after time, over to the Gweedore district; we always pass through a considerable portion of his property; and Mr. Olphert pointed out to me the part of the mountain that he had still left for his tenants to occupy, and I never saw one-sixth of the stock on it which it could feed at all times of the year. I think the people would be much benefited by the improvements which I have seen the Scotch people carrying on, for they show the people how to drain their land with sheep drainage, and getting the sheep on the ground would improve the pasture and improve their condition, and introduce a better system in the management of sheep, and everything else of the kind.

7794. Your mountain property is not so large in proportion to your low land as Mr. Olphert's is?—It is not.

7795. Although you have not much let your mountain to Scotch tenants, your opinion is, that the introduction of Scotch tenants has been of great service to the country?—No doubt it would improve their condition, by setting them an example of using the ample means that they have in their power for improvement.

7796. Do you consider that the land which is left to the existing tenants affords them more pasture than they can occupy?—Certainly.

7797. Have you any intimate acquaintance with Lord George Hill's property?—I know it very well; and I knew it before he did.

7798. Would

7798. Would the same remarks apply to his mountains?—I have not been so much through them; but the parts I have been through it does apply to.

7799. Has it been made a sort of charge that the tenants in that country have been subject to notices to quit; have you been in the habit of doing the same for any time?—I have not until this year. Being an exception to the petition presented to this House, I thought it necessary that I should show myself as determined as any other man in the country to put down these outrages; and I served my tenants in Meenagoppog and Procklish with notices to quit, sending at the same time a letter to my bailiff, desiring him to read it to them, saying, that if the outrages ceased, and they were not concerned in them, they need have no fear from the notices; but if I could see any clue to their being concerned in the outrages, they should go out of the land; otherwise, I said, matters should go on as formerly.

7800. It is your opinion that there is no real destitution in that portion of the country that you are intimately acquainted with?—Most unequivocally there is not.

7801. Therefore, the statements made as to destitution are not correct?—There are poor people travelling through the country, and I think that this money being collected has brought a great many strangers to our country (as a magistrate, that has come before me), in the hope of getting a share of what is going on. I do not know that any of them have got it; but they are frequently brought before me as a magistrate; and the day before I left home a man was brought before me.

7802. Were the crops of an average quantity last year?—Certainly.

7803. Were they above the average?—I had myself 40 barrels of potatoes to an acre, of 40 stone each barrel.

7804. Is there a considerable supply of potatoes in that district at present for sale?—In our market in Dunfanaghy, which is the great market for the whole district, I see carts from Cloughaneely coming in, and bringing as much stuff as from any other part of the country. Last Saturday the potatoes were more plentiful there than for a considerable time. I had desired some potatoes of my own to be brought into market that day, but seeing such a quantity there I gave directions to my man not to take the trouble of bringing them in and taking them back again.

7805. Do you know the present market price of potatoes in that market?—Three shillings a measure of eight stone is the highest price this year I have known.

7806. What is the price of meal?—I think the price of Indian meal has not been higher than 10 *s.*, and often under that, and oatmeal is 14 *s.*

7807. Mr. *Dobbs.*] As I make out from your evidence, the value of the produce of an acre of potatoes on such land as your own last year would be 20 *l.* at the present price of potatoes?—It would be 15 *s.* for 40 barrels, that would be 30 *l.*

7808. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You have seen it stated in the appeal signed on the 18th of February, that a large number of people were living on sea-weed, cockles, and small shell-fish on the shore?—I have.

7809. Do you believe it?—I know it is not the case.

7810. In point of fact, in the month of February is it possible to obtain shell-fish of that description?—I never saw cockles there in my life at that time of the year. When cockles are eaten out of season they are very bad food. I have known poor families seized with cholera from eating them when they were out of season.

7811. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] When are they out of season?—They generally come in about the 1st of April, and I think they keep on to this time; soon after this I think they go out of season.

7812. Lord *Naas.*] Are they very good food when they are in season?—Capital food; I have often heard them cried in the streets of Dublin.

7813. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] At the beginning of this inquiry we heard a good deal about sea-weed, but not so much latterly. Will you state to the Committee what your knowledge of the use of sea-weed in that district is?—The common use of sea-weed is for manure.

7814. Is it used for food extensively, or more extensively this year than usual?—I can state something about that. In the month of March this year, I was called upon by some tenants of mine to be present at a division of shore in which they had a supply of sea manure. I went with them along the shore; I pointed out to them what I thought would be the most advisable divisions to make.

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make. They objected to it, and they said, "Such a part of the shore is more subject to trespass from people collecting dolamaun." I recommended that they should not allow trespassing on this part for dolamaun, but to send the people away; but the men made reply, that they did not like to object to it, as it was an old-established custom of the people in the country. The day came on very wet, and I went into the house of one of the tenants, Dennis Sweeney, and I sat down by his fire with the tenants, during the shower. We discussed the subject of the sea-weed fully, and the reply of the people there, was, that they would not interrupt the people coming to collect this dolamaun, because they said, "It is better times with us now, than when none of them were coming to our shore in the famine year; they have plenty of potatoes now to eat along with it, and if they had not them they would not come."

7815. In point of fact, the more plentiful the crop of potato is, the greater is the consumption of sea-weed?—I think so, but I do not altogether know that it is the dolamaun that they take, but sloke, dillisk, and those sort of things; I see the people day after day going to collect sloke and dillisk, and I am very glad to get a little sloke myself sometimes.

7816. You confirm the statement which was made by many others that seaweed is used as a relish for their food?—Yes.

7817. And the more plentiful food is, the more seaweed is used?—Yes. I have an extensive rabbit-warren near that portion of the shore, which the people must cross in order to collect the seaweed, and I may have interrupted them myself, sometimes, for fear of their injuring my warren, but that is all.

7818. There is a kind of seaweed called Carrigeen moss collected there, is there not?—Yes; and when I go through the parish, and see persons particularly ill, I give them Carrigeen moss to boil with their milk, as the most nutritious thing I can give them.

7819. Are you acquainted with Mr. M'Gee, the Roman-catholic clergyman?—Very well.

7820. You and he co-operate a good deal, do you not?—We always have co-operated. In the famine year we worked together day after day, and night after night, most cordially, and up to the present moment, and I hope we shall long continue to do so.

7821. Is his name appended to the appeal?—No.

7822. Will you state to the Committee, if you know it, the reason why it does not appear?—The first that I knew of the appeal at all, or heard of it, was this. Dunfanaghy is not more than an English mile from my house. I am there every day, and I did not hear of it until the appeal was published in my newspaper, after this meeting took place. I read over the names of the gentlemen that composed the committee; but, as I say, not having heard of it, nor having any notice of it, except from the paper, I made every inquiry I could, and I could not get any satisfaction from anybody about it; nobody knew anything at all about it. The next market-day in Dunfanaghy I met the Rev. Mr. M'Gee, and I went to him and said, "Mr. M'Gee, can you tell me anything about this relief committee? You and I have often acted together on relief committees for the benefit of this country; can you tell me anything about it?" "Oh," said he, "I disapprove of it entirely; it is unnecessary and uncalled for." Both he and I were talking over the matter, when my brother, who is the rector of the parish of Tullaghobegly, which is in the Gweedore and Cloughaneely district, came up, and we had a considerable discussion on the subject in the street, and Mr. M'Gee perfectly agreed with my brother and myself that the appeal was unnecessary, and worse than useless.

7823. Consequently he declined to sign it?—He told me he would have nothing to do with it. Mr. M'Gee is a man whose faculties are as equal to his work as mine are. I was in that district when he was in the Rosses; and he has a snuff-box which was presented to him on leaving the parish of Templecrone by the parishioners of all denominations at parting. Everything was right in the parish when he was priest there.

7824. Is he not as much trusted and respected as any other Roman-catholic clergyman in the district?—Yes; he is respected by every denomination of people in the district.

7825. His opinion was, that this appeal was not only unnecessary, but worse than useless?—Yes.

7826. Of

7826. Of what parish is he now the priest?—He is the priest of the parish of Clondahorkey.

7827. Does his district include and adjoin the districts that are said to be in so much destitution?—His parish runs into it; he had not any of the Cloughaneely land in his parish.

7828. He is perfectly acquainted, is he not, with the country?—Perfectly, with every part of it. I do not know whether he has been over there latterly.

7829. Were you present at the time when your people were called upon for payment of the police tax?—I was.

7830. What occurred on that occasion?—I think it was about the 26th of August that the first levy of the police tax took place. It so happened that my Knockfalla people, that is the townland adjoining Lord George Hill's property, on which there is a kelp shore, are the only people of any townland in my possession that pay me a half-year's rent in any month of the summer, because they have a kelp shore; and it happened that that was the day that the police came into the country to collect the tax. The day before that, the people, after paying me the rent, said, "We have secreted our cows, we have driven them off, and we have hid them; we are afraid to bring them back, and the cows will be very much injured by it; what would you advise us to do?" "Go at once," I said; "pay your money and bring your cattle home; it is the law of the land, and you must pay." "Oh, sir," said they, "we are innocent." I said, "No matter whether you are innocent or not; if it is the law of the land, you must observe it." They went on to say, "If we do, they will be driven for the tax of other people." I said it was impossible that that could be the case. They then said, "Perhaps we will get no receipt." And the result of their conversation with me was, that we should meet the next day but one at the Gweedore Hotel, and I should go down with them to the village, where the police were collecting the tax, and that they should pay it, and that I should see their accounts settled; and they all kept their word with me except two, one of whom was in Scotland, and the other paid two days afterwards.

7831. Did they appear to have any difficulty in getting the money?—Not the slightest difficulty; some of them made excuses with me, and said, "Will you lend me 1 *s.*, or 6 *d.*, or something to make this up?" "No," I said; "it is an offence against the laws of your country, and I will not contribute one farthing; you must pay it yourselves;" and then they produced their money out of their pockets; but they kept off as long as they could.

7832. From your own observation, what description do you give to the Committee of the present clothing of the people?—It is as good as ever I saw it; and a great deal better than I have often seen it.

7833. Do you know the Reverend Mr. Brougham?—I do.

7834. Did you take any steps on any given day to come to a conclusion with regard to the state of their clothing?—It is an arrangement of the clergy of the district to meet at the Gweedore Hotel, on the last Thursday in the month, for a clerical meeting. Mr. Brougham's house is nearer to Gweedore than my own, and I drove over to his house on the morning of the last Thursday in April, and we agreed to make an accurate survey of the number of people we met on that road without shoes and stockings that day, as it might be useful to us, should we be called upon to give evidence on the subject, and not one man did we see without shoe or stocking; we saw, I think, three girls with no shoes or stockings at all; others were carrying them in their hands, because, I must say that it is no uncommon thing in that country to see girls with gaily dressed bonnets and shawls, carrying their shoes and stockings in their hands till they come near to the market town or chapel, and then they put them on; therefore it cannot be from want of the means of getting them.

7835. How many men do you suppose you met that day?—I think there were 200; there was a large fair when we came to the cross roads in the evening.

7836. Did the clothes of any one man strike you as not to be decent?—No.

7837. Nor those of any woman?—Some of the women were very poor, but I think they were strolling beggars.

7838. Have you had your attention drawn to the state of their beds in any cases?—I have; I thought it necessary to make an inspection of everything they complained of. After one of the great storms which we had lately, there was a quantity of sea manure thrown along the shore, and the people went down to

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collect that sea manure; and as my tenants had to go to Mr. Olphert's shore for it, I went on that day to their houses, when no one knew of my coming, or was aware of what I was about; I saw the people there in their houses as they are every day; I saw two old men in bed, who were ill, and that gave me a knowledge of the bed-clothes they had on. What is presented to view, in entering one of those houses in our district, is generally only a red cloth quilt; that quilt is composed of flannel, and it is lined with another material, sometimes linen, sometimes calico, and sometimes flannel, and there is cotton, and wool, and different materials firmly quilted into it. The girls of the country collect together; they have what they call a quilting frame, and they assemble round it, and quilt it very nicely; that is the leading feature in their covering, and they have ample means of having good blankets. We cannot obtain at the highest rate more than 1 *s.* per lb. for our wool, and from 10 lbs. to 12 lbs. of wool will make a good pair of blankets. If they have to pay for spinning it, which I think they ought to do themselves, it would cost them 4 *d.* per lb.; the weaving of it will cost them from 2½ *d.* to 3 *d.* per yard, and 12 yards of that will make a good pair of blankets, so that I think they can provide it by their own industry.

7839. Was the result of your inspection of the houses which you visited lately, such as to lead you to think that their bed clothes were fully as comfortable as you had been in the habit of seeing for the last 10 years?—I am quite certain they are. During the 27 years that I have been in the district, I have been called into many houses. When I first went there, I was rector of the parish which Mr. Brougham has now in the Cloughaneely district; my own tenants in Cloughaneely join that parish, and I used to go into their houses very frequently, and I have seen sick men in Clonbarra, which led me to know about the clothing.

7840. As rector and proprietor, the people would naturally go to you in cases where there was deep distress; have you had many applications for relief during the last year?—None.

7841. From your knowledge of the district, is the general health of the people there good?—Yes, I am sure of that, being a member of the dispensary committee.

7842. And is the general appearance of the people very good?—As good as ever I saw it.

7843. It is very different, is it not, from when there was real destitution in the district?—Very; they were poor-looking creatures at that time; hunger might be seen on their faces.

7844. Are you aware that Mr. Sharman Crawford lately visited that country?—I am. I happened to be riding near Dunfanaghy on the 2d of June, and I met Mr. M'Fadden, the parish priest of Cloughaneely, driving along on his car, and I saw two strange gentlemen on the car, and another person whom I took to be a Roman-catholic clergyman with them, but I did not know who it was, and I made inquiry afterwards. I met my brother, who is rector of the parish of Tullaghabegly, together with Mr. Brougham, and we talked over the matter, and I found out who he was, and I guessed at once what he was coming to look after from his being in the company that he was. I saw his evidence in the Belfast paper, and certainly such a district as that, Mr. Sharman Crawford never having been in such a wild district before (it is quite a primitive wild mountain district), and coming from such a beautiful county as he does, must have struck him with the contrast. But at the same time, from the short visit he paid, he had not the means of forming a correct judgment. He flew through the country; he slept at Mr. M'Fadden's house, but he stept across my property entirely. I inquired from the tenants if he had gone through their houses, but I found that he stepped over my property; he did not go into one of their houses, where I think he would have found a good deal of comfort, and have got a good bed too.

7845. He did not enter into any communication with you as to the state of the country?—Certainly not; he was not long enough in it to do so; my meeting him was accidental.

7846. From your knowledge of the country, it is your opinion that the main statements in that appeal are totally unfounded?—I think so, when I compare the condition of some of my tenants in 1853 and their present condition. Now, here is William Gallogher, who owed me at that time 9 *l.* 9 *s.* 5 *d*, at a yearly rent of 2 *l.* 10 *s.*, and he has a clear receipt now. There is another man here that owed me then 12 *l.* 4 *s.* 4 *d.*, at a yearly rent of 3 *l.* 5 *s.* 4 *d.* That man purchased the adjoining

adjoining farm to his this year, paying 46 *l.* for the new farm, and he has a clear receipt from me, so that that is his condition now compared with what it was in 1853.

7847. Did he get relief?—He did; he is on the relief list.

7848. Where does he live?—He lives in the townland of Killult; Dunfanaghy is the poorest union, and lowest value in Ireland.

7849. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Is this last person a tenant of yours?—He is.

7850. How far from Gweedore do you live?—Fifteen miles.

7851. Have you much property in this district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely?—Yes; my interest in Cloughaneely is the second; Mr. Olphert's is the first interest.

7852. How many townlands have you there?—I suppose I have about six or seven townlands.

7853. How many families do you think are living on your property altogether?—There are 112 tenants. The reason why I can tell is, that I was astonished when I saw there were so many on the relief list, and after deducting what I saw on the relief list from 112, it astonished me uncommonly.

7854. How many of those 112 were on the relief list?—I counted 94; some of them, of course, are cottiers; I have not a great many, but there are some; I cannot give the accurate number.

7855. About that number?—About that number.

7856. You told us that you visited, I think, three tenants in Meenagoppog?—I did.

7857. Are there only three tenants on that townland?—There are only three tenants on that townland.

7858. You were in their houses, and saw their stock?—I was in their houses, and saw Hugh Roorty's stock, and Ned Gallagher's. I did not take an accurate survey of Ned Gallagher's stock.

7859. What time was the relief given to them?—I could not tell the day, but they told me they got it.

7860. Was it previous to the 1st of May?—So they told me.

7861. Did they tell you how long previous?—I did not ask.

7862. Do you remember the date of your own visit?—The 3d of May; Sunday was the 2d of May and Saturday the 1st of May.

7863. All you know is, that it had been given some time previous to the 1st of May?—I know the people told me that they had got it.

7864. That townland was not subject, as I understand, to the sheep-tax?—It was the subject of tax; they had the police tax to pay.

7865. Had any other townland to pay both the police tax and the sheep-tax?—The townland of Knockfalla, on Bloody Foreland Mountain, had.

7866. Is that in the district which is the subject of the present inquiry?—It is in the district.

7867. That was the only townland of yours that had to pay both taxes?—Yes, they pay me a rental of about 32 *l.* a year.

7868. Were all your townlands charged with the police tax?—None but Meenagoppog, Procklish, and Knockfalla.

7869. One only was charged with the sheep-tax?—One only was charged with the sheep-tax.

7870. You were there, you say, on the 3d of May?—Yes.

7871. Had you been in any of the houses of the people previous to the 3d of May?—Not for a long time; it is a mountain, and it is a good mountain for sporting on; my son, who is an officer in the 3d Buffs, visits me, and he takes care of that mountain; I leave it to his discretion; I do not often go there.

7872. What petty session do you attend?—Dunfanaghy.

7873. Do you often go there?—I am a very regular attendant at it.

7874. Except when you go to the petty sessions you do not go much there?—Dunfanaghy is within a mile of my own residence, and I often go there.

7875. You do not go often into that district of Cloughaneely and Gweedore, except at the sessions?—Not to Meenagoppog, but in the district of Cloughaneely I go very often, for I receive rents there, and a good part of my income. This past year I have been there more than usual, because I have a surveyor employed, making some change in one townland in it.

7876. Except when you have business you do not go there?—Yes, I do;

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Mr. Olphert lives in Cloughaneely; he is one of my nearest neighbours, and my brother lives there.

7877. You do not go into the houses of the people, and you have no particular occasion to look after them?—I do very often; I encourage familiar intercourse with the tenants.

7878. I ask you whether you had been in the houses of the people previous to the 1st of May?—I said in the townland of Meenagoppog, which is a mountain townland, and far from me, I had not been for a long time.

7879. Can you tell me how often you have been in the houses of any of the people in the Cloughaneely district previous to the 3d of May?—I can answer that in the month of March I was in the townland of Clonbarra, in the distressed district, and in the month of April I was twice through the townland of Tallaghobegly, which is also in that district; I am very often in the people's houses, but I have no dates.

7880. Can you tell the Committee how many houses were you in when you visited it?—I think altogether about 20.

7881. Were those on your property?—On my own property only.

7882. You have talked of meeting with the tenants about settling a dispute as to the sea-shore; that was in the denomination of Killult?—It was.

7883. I think you said your tenants told you that the people were trespassing there for dolamaun?—They did.

7884. They told you, did they not, that the people used dolamaun for food?—Yes, to eat along with their potatoes.

7885. And that the tenants did not like to prevent them?—Yes.

7886. Did they tell you from what part of the country the people came for dolamaun?—They did not; I did not ask any questions.

7887. Did they say that many people came?—They said that it was an injury to their shore, but we did not enter in the number. The dolamaun is the points of the wrack on which the rest grows, and it is a serious injury to knock if off.

7888. Your tenants told you that the people were in the habit of coming to collect it?—Yes, and had done time out of mind.

7889. They took it for the purpose of eating it with potatoes?—They did.

7890. You quoted the opinion of Mr. M'Gee; he is parish priest of Clondahorkey, is he not?—Yes.

7891. That is not in this district, is it?—No, it is not.

7892. Is it far from it?—I think the parish adjoins this district.

7893. Is his residence far from Gweedore?—Yes, it is; I daresay it is 18 miles.

7894. Is he an elderly gentleman?—He is a man pretty much about my own standing; he may be a little older; I do not know his age.

7895. How many curates has he?—He has two curates.

7896. Have they signed this appeal?—They have.

7897. Has he been very active latterly in his habits with regard to his duties?—I do not know that he has; but I see him very constantly driving about in his car.

7898. That is, about his own parish?—About his own parish.

7899. When a parish priest is active, is it usual to have two curates?—I never knew him have more than one until lately.

7900. There has been an increase in his clerical staff lately?—Yes; but I do not believe that that is confined to his parish; but it is mere hearsay.

7901. You only know that lately there has been an additional curate put upon him?—I do.

7902. I believe that many of the clergy do not like additional curates?—I do not suppose any one would like it that could help it.

7903. You stated that you and Mr. Brougham took a survey of the dress of the people; in what month was that?—It was the last Thursday in April, and being the fair day at Cross Roads, that brought a good many people out.

7904. I believe people going to a fair generally turn out in their best?—Certainly; but if they had not the clothes they could not put them on.

7905. Do they ever borrow a coat, or a pair of shoes, or a bonnet?—I dare say they do, but it is not a general thing.

7906. How many did you meet on the road that day?—Between 200 and 300; I did not count them; I think there were a good many people.

7907. Is

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7907. Is Mr. Brougham here?—He is not. He is rector of Raymunterdony.

7908. Is he the rector of any part of this district?—He is.

7909. Does he live in the district?—Yes, constantly; he is never from home.

7910. Is not it a fact that Mr. M'Gee has confined himself latterly, in consequence of his age, to the discharge of his duties as chaplain to the workhouse?—I never knew it; he is chaplain to the workhouse, I know; but I do not know whether he does any other duty in the parish or not.

7911. Did you ever meet him in this Gweedore district at all?—Never, certainly not; but I think he must have a good deal of information about it. Mr. M'Gee, who is parish priest in the Gweedore district, is a nephew of his.

7912. Do not you think that the parish priest of Gweedore would have a deal more of information than the parish priest of Clondahorkey.—Yes.

7913. Would not he have better information than the other?—Certainly he would; at least he ought.

7914. Have you seen the evidence as to the eating of sea-weed?—Yes, I have seen it.

7915. You of course do not know whether it was correct or not?—I know nothing of my own knowledge about dolamaun, or about their boiling it, or their manner of dressing it; but about dillisk and sloke, it is a thing I like to get hold of myself.

7916. I believe one of your properties is at Killult, and the people there are tolerably comfortable?—I think it is the least comfortable townland I have; the tenants were formerly more in arrear than any other townland I have.

7917. Are your tenantry generally comfortable?—Indeed I hope they are in fair circumstances.

7918. You had a very good crop of potatoes, had you not?—I had.

7919. Would you think it a fair average crop in the district of Cloughaneely?—Certainly, I have as bad land in my farm as in any farm in the whole district, and it is only from the superior cultivation of it that I have had such a crop, and I think that other people could cultivate them with less expense than I could.

7920. There is that superior cultivation on your land, is there not?—Yes, and I do my best always to explain to my tenants how they are to do it.

7921. You have succeeded on your own land?—I have.

7922. Do other people have the same quality of potato that you have?—They do not; indeed they are the worst quality of potatoes; and that is one of the greatest mischiefs that they have, that they will be content with such bad things, and not look for better; and that is an evil which this relief, I think, has done a great deal to establish. The poor-law being established in Ireland has thrown people more on their own resources, and excited industry among them, but now they are thrown back on the prop of getting aid as in former years, and I think it will prevent their industry.

7923. Some of those potatoes would not be the food that they would choose?—I think not; but I think they ought to provide better, and that they could provide better.

7924. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Are there not several signatures to that appeal of reverend gentlemen totally strangers to the district?—There are. Mr. O'Donnell is one.

7925. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] You mean that they know nothing about it?—Yes. They reside entirely out of the district.

7926. That is your only reason for thinking so?—That is my only reason.

Henry Maunsell, Esq., M.D., called in; and Examined.

Henry Maunsell, Esq., M.D.

7927. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] ARE you acquainted with this district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely?—I am.

7928. Have you been in the habit of visiting it of late years?—Yes.

7929. Were you formerly dispensary surgeon at Letterkenny?—Yes, a long time ago.

7930. Since then you have been in the habit of visiting Gweedore, have you not, for the purpose of fishing?—Yes.

7931. Were you there last year?—I was.

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7932. You visited that district last autumn, did you not?—I was there in September last.

7933. When did you visit it previous to September last?—I think I was there the year before; I am not sure. I was there in 1854, and I was there before that, I believe, in 1852. I frequently go to that county, and then I generally go to Gweedore.

7934. Are you in the habit of visiting the people in their houses?—I have gone a good deal through them. I did not in September, nor the last time I was there. I have been there about three weeks ago.

7935. Did you visit any of the people?—I was occasionally in the houses, but I met a great many people; I was there eight or ten days.

7936. Did you observe any striking change in the appearance of their clothes?—No, certainly not; they looked as well as they did when I was there previously.

7937. Do you know anything of the sea-weed that has been talked about so much?—I know that it is eaten there, and has been always eaten in that country; it is sold, in fact, in Letterkenny. I have seen it occasionally sold in the market; dilisk and sloake, and some others.

7938. Lord *Naas*.] Do you know what is called dulamaun?—I know it.

7939. Did you ever see it sold?—No; but when I was there, three or four years ago, in 1854, I came to observe it more particularly than before; there was a friend with me, Dr. John Davy, the brother of Sir Humphrey Davy; he was curious about this matter, and he was struck with the quantity of dilisk and other sea-weeds selling; he collected some, and got me to send him some specimens; and he and Professor Apjohn, of Dublin, made a very able analysis of these sea-weeds. It was merely as a matter of scientific curiosity on his part. He read a Paper before the Royal Society of Edinburgh, giving an account of them.

7940. Was the result such as to lead you to think there was anything unwholesome in the moderate use of them?—No. I will read this extract from Dr. Davy's paper, from the "Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal," in 1856.

That these sea-weeds are deserving of the reputation which they have amongst the poor, to whom their use as articles of food, with one or two exceptions, is chiefly restricted, and most of all in Ireland, is, I cannot but think, in a manner demonstrated by the results of the experiments of the able chemist whom I have just named, and on whose accuracy the most perfect reliance may be placed. I was present when some of the first trials were made in the laboratory of Trinity College, Dublin, for the purpose of ascertaining the proportion of nitrogen by burning them with soda-lime; and I can bear witness to the care with which the process was conducted. Dr. Apjohn, in an interesting lecture which he delivered last spring at a meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland, and since published in the Society's Journal, has given some account of these experiments, and he has favoured me with the results, with some additions, with permission to use them. I shall give them in a tabulated form, as drawn up by him, with a statement, for comparison, also by him, of the proportion of nitrogen in some of the vegetable substances in most common use as articles of food of men and cattle.

EXPERIMENTS made by Dr. *Apjohn*, in conjunction with Dr. *Davy*, in July 1854.

SPECIMENS supplied by Dr. *Davy*, and dried at 212°.

	Nitrogen per Cent.
Chondrus crispus (bleached)	2·152
Fucus vesiculosus (that is the dolamaun)	2·379
Rhodomenia palmata (Dylisk)	3·776

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EXPERIMENTS made by Dr. *Apjohn*, in August 1854.

	Water.	Dry Matter.	Per Cent. of Nitrogen in Dry Matter.	Protein contained in Dry Matter.
Chondrus crispus, bleached (from Bewly & Evans).	17·92	82·08	1·534	9·587
Chondrus crispus, unbleached (Ballycastle) -	21·47	78·53	2·142	13·387
Gigartina mammillosa (Ballycastle) - - -	21·55	78·45	2·198	13·737
Chondrus crispus, bleached (Bewly & Evans), second experiment.	19·79	80·21	1·485	9·281
Chondrus crispus, unbleached (Ballycastle), second experiment.	19·96	80·04	2·510	15·687
Laminaria digitata, or Dulse Tangle (Ballycastle).	21·38	78·62	1·588	9·925
Laminaria digitata, or Black Tangle (Ballycastle).	31·05	68·95	1·396	8·725
Rhodomenia palmata, or Dylisk (Ballycastle) -	16·56	83·44	3·465	21·656
Porphyra laciniata, or Levre (Ballycastle) -	17·41	82·59	4·650	29·062
Iridæa edulis (Ballycastle) - - - - -	19·61	80·39	3·088	19·300
Alaria esculenta, or Marlins (Ballycastle) -	17·91	82·09	2·424	15·150
Means - - -	20·42	79·58	2·407	15,045

N. B.—The amount of water given in this Table is considerably less than what belongs to the algæ when fresh from the sea, for they had all undergone a partial drying, preparatory to being sent up from Ballycastle to Dublin for analysis.

PER-CENTAGE of NITROGEN in various EDIBLE SUBSTANCES, dried at 212°.

Potatoes - - - - - - - - - -	541
Flour of first quality - - - - - -	1,817
Beetroots (mean of 13 experiments) - - - -	1,848
Mangolds (mean of three experiments) - - -	1,781
Swedish Turnips, (mean of five experiments) - -	1,843
Means - - - - -	1,567

These results are so unexpected, that could there be any doubt (which I have not) of their accuracy, it might be questioned. The mean of them shows that the proportion of nitrogen these algæ contain exceeds that, not only of the ordinary articles of vegetable food, but even that of wheaten flour of the first quality, being as 2·407 to 1·317. Are not, I would ask, these esculent sea-weeds, on account of the iodine and bromine which they more or less contain, deserving of more general use? Nowhere, I believe, where they are in common use, is bronchocele known; and, as far as I have been able to ascertain, scrofulous complaints are rare, and even pulmonary consumption; whilst, on the contrary, in inland districts, even in our own country, bronchocele and scrofula are more or less prevalent, especially amongst the labouring class, who rarely have the benefit of articles of food known to contain iodine. And this remark applies to our troops, whose dietary hitherto has been regulated with such a marked neglect of medical science. In the West Indies, phthisis was unusually prevalent whilst I was there in the 88th Regiment, the Connaught Rangers, a fine body of men, raised chiefly in the province the name of which it bears; men, who at home, we are tolerably certain, made use of sea-weed occasionally and of sea-fish, whilst in foreign service their diet was almost exclusively bread and meat, with a scanty addition of vegetables. In relation to use, these vegetables have most of them the recommendation of cheapness, so as to be within the reach of the poorest; and their not being liable to spoil by keeping, when dried, is another circumstance in their favour; and another, I may add, is that they are grateful to the palate, and some of them, dulse, for instance, even in their undressed state. The blanc-mange that is made, substituting chondrus crispus for isinglass, is hardly distinguishable from that prepared with the more costly article, and is in common use in Ireland at the tables of the opulent.

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That paper was entirely independent of any question of the kind now before the Committee; it was in 1854, I think, that we were there.

7941. In short, from your general observation during that visit, you saw no marks of what is called destitution, either in the clothing or general appearance of the people?—None; certainly, the district is much improved since the first time I knew it, nearly 30 years ago.

7942. Did you collect any expression of feeling from the people about this proceeding?—When I talked about it to persons whom I met, the destitution was spoken of as a sort of joke; but they thought it no joke, this quarrel going on, and they were very much grieved at the disturbance there.

7943. Do you mean, by quarrels, the bad feeling that was excited on the part of the people towards the landlords?—Yes; it was the common subject of talk, about people going to London, and the fight that was going on concerning the sheep.

7944. Lord *Naas*.] Did the people regret it?—Very much.

7945. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] You were there, you said, in 1854?—I think it was in 1854 I was with Dr. Davy.

7946. Were you as a tourist in search of the picturesque?—I was fishing.

7947. Not sea fishing?—It was trout and salmon fishing.

7948. I suppose you principally occupied yourself with the business that you came for?—I did; but I was there before; I went there some time before that. The proprietor and editor of the "University Magazine" asked me to give an account of Gweedore as a remarkable place, and of what had occurred there in the way of improving the country; I mean Lord George Hill's improvements of the whole country; I stayed there several days, and I went particularly through the district.

7949. When was that?—I think it was about 1852 or 1853.

7950. In 1854 you were on a piscatorial excursion?—I was.

7951. Can you speak Irish?—No; I can understand a little; I forget now much of what I did know.

7952. I believe the people speak it very generally there?—They do; but they speak English also.

7953. Are there not a good many who cannot?—I do not think there are a great many of the younger part of them who cannot; the very old people do not speak English generally; at least they find great difficulty.

7954. You were there in September last, were you not?—I was.

7955. How long were you there then?—I was there only a couple of days at the Gweedore Hotel.

7956. Were you fishing there?—I did fish a little; it was rather late in the season.

7957. You did not see much of the people then, did you?—I saw a good deal of them, for my wife was with me, and she was curious to see the people.

7958. Did you go into the houses?—I was in some houses; not many.

7959. Was it principally the cottages about the hotel that you visited?—No; it was more likely that I was at a distance.

7960. Do you recollect at all any place that you were in then?—I do not; I was not there a week, but I saw the people generally. I believe that there was no destitution then, and when I was there the other day, there was a difficulty about getting a boy to carry a fishing basket.

7961. You state that the people were all saying that the destitution was a joke?—They were.

7962. Who were they?—Several persons whom I casually met; for instance, two men there who were out fishing with Dr. Brady and me, they were talking about it.

7963. Those were the persons that you represent by the pronoun "they?"—There were a great many more. I was there eight or ten days, and conversed with a great many persons.

7964. You do not remember the names of the two men?—No.

7965. Were they people in any person's employment?—I think so; they were in Mrs. Russell's employment.

7966. They were attending you fishing?—Yes; rowing us.

7967. Sir *Edmund Hayes*.] Have you visited other parts of the country similar to this upon the west coast of Ireland?—Yes, I have frequently.

7968. Have you been in Mayo?—Yes; and Kerry and Galway.

7969. Does

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7969. Does it strike you whether Donegal and the Gweedore district was worse or better than those other districts?—Gweedore and Cloughaneely are much better. There are very few districts, I think, better than Cloughaneely.

7970. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] What district of Kerry are you speaking of?—I have been in a place called Dromore, not far from Kenmare; and I have been in other parts, at Carra Lake and Rossbagh.

7971. Are the people there worse off than in Gweedore?—I think far worse off.

7972. Do they live on dolamaun there?—I do not know.

7973. Are they worse off in point of bedding than the people of Gweedore?—I think it is very much the same. I have been often in their houses.

7974. Are they as badly off for want of clothes?—I think they are rather worse. They have a peculiar costume in Gweedore, which is rather going away now. The people who make their own clothes make them in a peculiar way. They used to wear, and some of them do now, what they call a wily coat, a sort of over waistcoat.

7975. In Kerry do not they not use the dolamaun?—I do not know. Where I am speaking of they could not get it; it is not on the sea shore; it is mountain.

7976. Did you ever see a mess of boiled dolamaun and Indian meal?—I never ate it; I never even ate sloake; I do not like the look of it.

7977. Did you ever even smell a dish of boiled dolamaun and Indian meal?—I have seen it boiled; I do not like it.

7978. Have you seen it with the Indian meal in it?—I have seen it prepared for food; I do not know whether there was Indian meal with it, but I have seen it in houses in that district.

7979. Sir *Edmund Hayes*.] Are you aware that some people cannot bear the sight of sloake?—I cannot. I would not eat sloake myself, though I believe it is considered a very nice thing.

7980. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] Have you seen dolamaun in houses in this district?—I am quite aware that they eat it.

7981. Have you ever seen the common wrack eaten?—No; I am not a great judge of sea-weeds; but I know, from the inquiries that Dr. Davy made, that there are four or five kinds fit to eat, and dolamaun is one of them, and dilosk, and carrigeen, and sloake; he also found the tangle eaten in some parts of Scotland.

7982. It is the result of Dr. Davy's experiments that dolamaun is the best of them all?—It is highly nutritious.

7983. Mr. *Dobbs*.] Mr. Sharman Crawford described the dolamaun as the common box wrack; is that a correct description?—The name of it is *fucus vesiculosus*, but I am not a naturalist.

7984. Do you know what is called the box wrack?—No; I cannot undertake to determine the name.

7985. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] Am I right in understanding your last answer, that the result of Dr. Davy's experiments is that dolamaun is the best of the four kinds that you have mentioned, and the most nutritious?—I think so.

7986. Which does he make out to be the best?—He makes out dolamaun to be highly nutritious, I think, at least as I read this paper.

7987. What was the period of your last visit?—I was there in the beginning of May.

Charles Hazlitt Swiney, Esq., called in; and Examined.

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7988. Mr. *Dobbs*.] WHERE do you live?—I live in Ramelton, in the county of Donegal; and I have an office at Enniskillen, in the county of Fermanagh.

7989. How far is Ramelton from the district of Cloughaneely?—Twenty miles from the eastern side of the district.

7990. What is your profession?—Land surveyor and valuator, and an Associate of the Institution of Civil Engineers in Ireland.

7991. You have been engaged in many parts of Ireland in making surveys, have you not?—I have been.

7992. Do you know this district?—Intimately.

7993. Did you formerly, as a surveyor, visit Gweedore?—Yes; I was a pupil

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of Mr. Robert Montgomery, who made the survey for Lord George Hill in the year 1841 and following years.

7994. Have you got a map of that survey?—The maps prepared at that time for Lord George Hill are here, but I have a large plan of the district which will, perhaps, give a better general idea.

7995. Do you know what instructions were given by Lord George Hill with regard to that survey in 1840 and 1841?—When Lord George Hill got possession of that property, it was held entirely in conjunction, or rundale; the people lived in villages, and held their land in a great many small divisions, scattered all over the face of the country.

7996. What were his Lordship's instructions as to the survey?—He was anxious to do away with that rundale system; his instructions were that the land should be divided; that each tenant should get his farm in one place, if possible; and that the greatest care should be taken to give each man an equivalent for his original holding.

7997. Was that done?—A survey was made and Mr. Montgomery commenced laying out the holdings, and it was found that there were over 500 holdings in the district.

7998. Was each person allotted a certain portion of land, and was there a certain quantity of land appropriated to them all for grazing purposes?—There were 543 holdings of various sizes on the property; of these 134, more than one-fourth of the entire, were so small as to amount to only half a cow's grass and under.

7999. If each tenant got a portion of the land, they also got the right of grazing over other land, did they not?—Yes, there was a quantity of mountain reserved for the use of the tenantry, besides what they got allotted to them.

8000. Was the rest reserved for Lord George Hill himself?—It was.

8001. Were the tenants satisfied with that division at the time?—They were perfectly satisfied, and there was not a single instance, that I am aware of, of any division being arbitrarily made; they were consenting parties. During the progress of the division, the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden, the parish priest, appointed a committee who met the surveyor, and arranged and determined on the different holdings.

8002. Was the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden on that Committee?—He was present almost constantly. Lord George Hill was in the country at the same time, and listened patiently to all their complaints, and went to a great deal of trouble and expense in satisfying them. They upset to-day what was done yesterday, and his Lordship made all the alterations that were called for.

8003. Had the tenants a sufficient quantity of mountain land allotted to them, for any stock which they possessed?—I believe they had, and until the last two years I never heard a complaint as to the quantity being too small.

8004. Did you make new divisions, new cuts, two years ago?—I did, in 1856.

8005. What was the object for making these cuts?—One of the rules made on the estate was, that the land should not be subdivided, inasmuch as the holdings were considered already very small. His Lordship found out that the only way he could check this subdivision was to prevent an increase in the number of houses. He found that a great number of the tenantry were bringing their married children into their own houses and subdividing the land, and in order to prevent this, it was arranged that mountain lots should be laid off, and given to the married children of those tenants.

8006. Do you know of cattle having been sent to graze on the mountain which was reserved by Lord George Hill, for his own use?—Yes, for many years Lord George Hill kept a herd.

8007. Have you sent cattle there yourself?—Yes; and a great many neighbours about Ramelton also, and I paid for the grazing.

8008. Do you consider that those tenants were injured when the mountains were set to these Scotch farmers?—I believe that the great mass of the people were not at all injured by the mountains being set, and this map, which is made on the scale of six inches to a mile, represents the entire district of Cloughaneely and Gweedore, and the portion set as sheep farms is represented by the yellow colour; all the white portion is unset.

8009. Is the yellow part what is set to the Scotch farmers?—Yes, and all the white

white and open ground is unset; the green part gives a general idea of the quantity of cultivated ground and inhabited land.

8010. Does the white represent that which is left as mountain grazing for the use of the tenants?—The purple line across from one side to the other represents the boundaries between the districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely; and the white portion represents partly what is left for the use of the tenants and partly that which belongs to the landlord, and which is not set.

8011. Do you know a man named James Gallagher, who was mentioned by Mr. Doherty?—Yes; his case was referred to by Mr. Doherty before this Committee; and, in support of my general statement, that the people were not injured by the mountains being set, I referred to the survey of this man, who states that, before Lord George Hill came into possession of the property, he had 180 sheep and some horses. On referring to the survey, I find that this man was only entitled to $2\frac{1}{18}$ cows' grass; a cow's grass is equal to about five sheep's grass; and he must have been grazing all those at the expense of his poorer neighbours. If he had any right there whatever, his right would not extend to above 20 sheep.

8012. Therefore he could not have a right to grazing for that number of cattle?—No; the mountains were monopolised by the people who then had stock, and the very poor people could not have suffered at all; if he had that quantity, as stated by Mr. Doherty, he must have trespassed on his neighbours.

8013. Do you know the case of a man called Thomas M'Bride, who is said to have been deprived of his grazing on Tor mountain?—Yes; I refer to him because it is stated that the mountain of Meenderryamph, which is here on the map, is too far to be of any service to those tenants, but really it is only $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from this man, whereas Tor mountain is six miles distant from where he lives.

8014. Did he get grazing on any other mountain which is nearer?—I cannot point to his case individually, but I say that Meenderryamph is in a better position with regard to the grazing of the people there than Tor was.

8015. Had the tenants where he lived the right of grazing on Meenderryamph?—It has been reserved for them by Lord George Hill.

8016. When did you first visit that district?—I was there last on the 1st, 2d, and 3d of June.

8017. Did you observe the appearance of the people there?—Yes, I had an opportunity of seeing the people.

8018. Did you see them going to chapel and returning?—Yes, I did.

8019. How did they look with regard to destitution?—They looked remarkably well; they were particularly well dressed; I observed a great many things in their dress that I never observed before in the country, and I was much struck altogether with their appearance.

8020. Was that at the time Mr. Sharman Crawford was there?—It was.

8021. Do you recollect surveying Mrs. Russell's estate in 1856?—I do.

8022. She was going to sell it, was she not?—It had been offered to sale.

8023. Had you any communications with Mr. Underwood about it?—I had; he was anxious to become the purchaser; I had a number of letters from him, in which he wished me to represent to Mrs. Russell, that the property was not worth the sum he offered for it; in fact he wished me to make such representation as would make him the purchaser at the figure he offered, which was a much lower value than the value of the estate.

8024. Did he make you any offer as to fees?—He did; he said, if I carried out his views in the matter, he would remunerate me.

8025. Have you got his letter?—Yes.

8026. Will you read his letter?—Yes.

8027. Mr. *Maguire*.] Do you wish to represent that Mr. Underwood made a fraudulent offer to you?—I wish to represent that he was particularly anxious I should depreciate the value of the estate for which he had become a bidder.

8028. Mr. *Dobbs*.] Will you read the letters?—"Private. Strabane, 9 September 1856.—Dear sir, I received yours only this morning, and to-night I have had a reply from Mr. Smith, complaining of my offer. He says, a valuation will be placed in the hands of Messrs. Roberts, and that they have power to treat. Now, I think the matter draws to a close, and I am certain, apart from your interest for me, you would not, as a man with professional reputation, give them the valuation they wish to sell by. You have had my views, and tried by any principle of valuation, they are fair and honestly practical. I can truly assure

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you I have calculated the outgo and the probable income most favourably, and now, having done my best, all rests with you. The things are plain; the place fits no one, save a man who can live utterly independent of it, or a man who would go to toil, starve, and wear out his existence as a miserable farmer. You must kill every romance, and take things as they are, and let the purchaser have an honest, certain, and direct return or per-centage. You shall, in the event of adopting these views, have ample proof, in the event of effecting a purchase, that I am yours truly, Thomas Neilson Underwood." The other letter is dated 14th November 1856; it is marked "private," and it states, "Dear sir, Before I left for London, I wrote a letter to you in reference to Dunlewey, and I find you have not replied. I should like to know how you have proceeded in reference to that matter, not indeed from any interest I have in it, but from the interest my relative has expressed. I waited on Messrs. Woodgate and Williams in reference to Brenter," (that is with reference to another place about which he was in treaty) "and when we meet, I will relate the particulars of our conversation. I should like to hear if you went over the ground for the gentleman at Enniskillen. To return to Dunlewey, I beg to say we place the matter in your hands, restricting the offer to 4,000 *l.*, on which should you succeed I will pay even more than the usual fee, say 100 *l.*" The first communication that I had from Mr. Underwood was a letter asking my opinion of its value, to which I replied that I had been employed by Mrs. Russell to make a survey and valuation; and, inasmuch as the rental, which had been published, took no note whatever of the part of the estate that was in her own occupation, and merely referred to the portion held by the tenantry, I declined to give him my valuation, but I said that he might have it on application to the agents.

8029. Do you know the townland of Meenacladdy, belonging to Mr. Woodhouse?—I do.

8030. Did you survey any portion of it?—I did.

8031. Did you lay off a part of the mountain?—Yes.

8032. What did you lay off that part of the mountain for?—I received instructions from Mr. Woodhouse to mark upon the ground a line which should distinguish between the portion laid off for the tenants, and the portion reserved.

8033. How many acres did you allow for each tenant?—I should say the way I did this was by ascertaining the quantity of stock that they had. I found on going to the mountain that it was covered with cattle. The people stated that they did not know the owners of many of them, and that they received no remuneration for the grazing of any of them. I made inquiry then as to the quantity of stock held by each man, and laid off in my judgment a sufficient quantity for them, to the extent of 500 acres of the best of the mountain. That gave an average of 16 acres to each tenant.

8034. Was that part near the shore?—It was.

8035. In what state was the remainder of the mountain?—The remainder of the mountain was a hilly boggy bit of mountain, lying at a considerable elevation, and very much exposed. I marked two lines on the ground, and the people desired me to represent to Mr. Woodhouse that if he gave them a trifling quantity beyond what I had laid off they would be perfectly satisfied, and never would complain at all. Upon that I marked both lines upon the ground, and wrote to Mr. Woodhouse, recommending him not to change the line that I had laid off, as it would give rise to a great deal of trouble.

8036. When was it that you surveyed that land for Mr. Woodhouse?—It was about four years ago, I think.

8037. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] Did I rightly understand you to say that all the white part was left for the grazing of the tenantry?—The white represents all the mountain that is not set to Scotch people.

8038. And there are portions of the white part, are there not, which the landlords have reserved to themselves?—Yes.

Veneris, 2° die Julii, 1858.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Bagwell.	Mr. Maguire.
Sir J. Yarde Buller.	Mr. P. Wykeham Martin.
Sir Serjeant Deasy.	Lord Naas.
Mr. Dobbs.	Sir William Somerville.
Sir Edmund Hayes.	

JOHN BAGWELL, Esq., IN THE CHAIR.

Daniel John Cruice, Esq., called in; and Examined.

D. J. Cruice, Esq.

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8039. Lord *Naas.*] WHAT is your profession?—I am Resident Magistrate of Donegal.

8040. How long have you been in that office?—More than 21 years.

8041. How long have you been in Donegal?—Since 1852.

8042. Are you a Roman-catholic?—I am.

8043. Has your attention been particularly directed by the Government to the district of Gweedore?—It has.

8044. You reside at Donegal generally, do you not?—I do; or rather I reside in the country, near the town of Donegal.

8045. Has your attention, as resident magistrate, been directed to the existence of the outrages in this district?—It has.

8046. Will you state to the Committee when the first outrage of an agrarian nature occurred as regards the sheep in the district of Gweedore?—Several years previous to 1856 the tails were cut off some cattle that were grazing upon land of Mr. Nixon's.

8047. That was referred to in evidence?—It was.

8048. What was the date of that?—The 12th of July 1854.

8049. Will you state what you know concerning that outrage?—When it was reported to me I went to inquire into it, and some other magistrates of the district assisted in the inquiry, and we took evidence upon oath, which I have here. Some of the people came before us to give evidence. Upon that occasion I find a man of the name of Hugh Sweeney was examined before the magistrates, a man of the name of Teague M'Ginley, and a man of the name of James M'Fadden.

8050. How long after was that?—Shortly after.

8051. Was it before or after the cattle were driven off by the police?—Considerably before.

8052. Will you state what the nature of those informations was?—It was stated in those sworn depositions taken by us that they had this land themselves; it appears that they had had it at some low rent, and had given it up, and got it exchanged for other grazing, and taken it again at 30 *s.* a year; that is in Glashagh, the property of Mr. Nixon.

8053. Will you read those informations?—"Tool Coll sworn: saith, he heard James M'Fadden, of Buninver, was fined 10 *s.* by Mr. Doherty the priest, for sending cattle to graze to Mr. Nixon's land; and saith, the reason I sent my cattle to graze to Mr. Nixon's land in Mr. Robinson's name was, that I was afraid, if I sent them in my own name, Mr. Doherty the priest would fine me." That is what Coll swore.—"Hugh Sweeney sworn: saith, he heard Mr. Doherty the priest fined Hugh M'Ginley 10 *s.* for paying Mr. Nixon grazing money for cattle he had on the land; the heifers' tails were cut off; and that Widow Gallagher and James Gallagher were fined 10 *s.* each by Mr. Doherty for sending cattle to graze to Mr. Nixon's land by the priest. Connell M'Gee told me Mr. Doherty the priest fined him 1 *l.* for putting his horse to graze on Mr. Nixon's land. I was at the station at Teague M'Ginley's house, when

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Mr. Doherty the priest said he would fine Teague M'Ginley, Pat Gallagher, and James Gallagher 10 *s.* each for taking grazing from Mr. Nixon which I set them. I said to Mr. Doherty that the rest of the tenants might be fined as well as those he mentioned, when Mr. Doherty said to me, 'You are as bad as Mr. Nixon,' and then turned me out of the house. He also said he would not allow any of the people to put cattle to graze on Mr. Nixon's land. Mr. Doherty told me to quit Mr. Nixon's employment, and not to herd for him or do anything for him. I said Mr. Nixon was as any other gentleman, and that I would herd for him. James M'Coll told me Mr. Doherty said he would fine him 1 *l.* for sending cattle to graze to Mr. Nixon's land. James M'Fadden told me he was fined 17 *s.* by the priest for sending cattle to graze to Mr. Nixon's land, and that he paid it."—"Teague M'Ginley sworn: saith, Mr. Doherty said he would fine me, James Gallagher, and Tay Gallagher 10 *s.* each, if we sent cattle to graze to Mr. Nixon's land; that was the day the station was at my house. I would be glad to send my cattle to graze to Mr. Nixon's land, if the priest would give us leave, as we want the grazing badly. The last day I was with the priest he asked me if I had 10 *s.* to give him for sending cattle to graze to Mr. Nixon's land. The priest said he would not hear my confession unless I paid him 10 *s.* for sending my cattle to graze to Mr. Nixon's land. Mr. Doherty said he would fine any of us that would send cattle to graze to Mr. Nixon's land."—"James M'Fadden sworn: saith, Mr. Doherty the priest told me he would fine me for sending cattle to graze on Mr. Nixon's land, and that he would make any one sorry that would put cattle to graze on Mr. Nixon's land."

8054. Those are informations that you took and were sworn to?—Yes.

8055. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Those are *ex-parte* informations?—It was upon an investigation before the magistrates' inquiry about the tails.

8056. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was Mr. Doherty present during the time of this examination?—No.

8057. Had you the conduct of this inquiry?—Not more than any of the other magistrates; there were two other magistrates.

8058. Were you specially sent for?—Not at all.

8059. Lord *Naas.*] You went subsequently to that to protect the bailiff in driving off cattle from those lands?—Yes. Some time after that Mr. Nixon's bailiff came to the petty sessions at Bunbeg, and he there stated (it was in reference to cutting off the tails) that no one there would send cattle to graze upon the land, and that the people had grazed it per force. I said to him, "You must be sworn, for I want to see the state of facts." The man was sworn, and he stated upon his oath that several hundred sheep were on the land, several head of black cattle, horses, &c., and that he repeatedly attempted to drive them off; that the people resisted by hallooing dogs after them, and that those wild sheep ran away and he did not know the owners; and he went on to say, "At this very moment, sir, it is covered with cattle." I spoke to the magistrates then sitting in session with me, and I said, "This is not right; the people have no right to stock this gentleman's land by force in this manner, and what do you mean to do?" They seemed to say that there was a great deal of difficulty, and I said, "I think the bailiff ought to be protected, for he says his master lives at some distance, and he is a stranger in the county, and he ought to be protected." We talked then as to the protection that he should receive, and we were of opinion that it would require a very large force for his protection, and an instance was mentioned of the sub-sheriff having come there some time before with 20 policemen, upon some duty, but he was obliged to retire, and was afraid to perform it; but that he came with a very much larger number afterwards. I said I was of opinion that the first force would be sufficient, and I said, "If none of you will do this, gentlemen, my station is nearly 60 miles from this, but I could not feel justified in returning home and leaving things in this state," and I said I would go the next morning.

8060. What happened the next morning?—I sent Head Constable Young with 12 men who were available, and I told him to take six men first, directing Mr. Nixon's bailiff to meet me on the place and to have any men that he could to assist him; Mr. Nixon was at the sessions that day, and he told me that there was one man whom he could find who would assist his bailiff, and that this man was under great obligation to him; I directed Head Constable Young to go by the sea shore (as this land comes down to it) with six men, half the party, and I sent the

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the other six men by the road, and we came in at both ends. I was on horseback myself, and when I got there I found that this land was covered with sheep and cattle. The constable then came to me, and he said "There is a man here whom I have detained; he appeared to be watching those cattle upon this land and keeping them on it, for when I came up he whistled and hallooed for dogs to hunt them away, and I have him here." I said, "I cannot spare men to take charge of that man, we have too few; see what his name is, and put a pair of handcuffs on him; that will keep him quiet for the present." The men did so, and while we were talking the bailiff came up, and I asked who the man was, and he said, which surprised me very much, that it was the man whom Mr. Nixon told me he would depend his existence upon, and I said that it was very strange that it was so. I then found there was no assistance to be obtained in taking away his cattle; there was a very large quantity, and as I was unwilling, having come to do the duty, not to perform it, I myself and the police assisted in putting those cattle together, and we drove them on to the sandbanks towards the pound. An immense number of persons collected, whistling and shouting, and everything of the sort. It was a very wild, remote place, in the centre of the sandbanks, with no house near at all, and I was apprehensive that they would attack myself and the police, and I directed the constable to tell his men to prime and load, thinking that it might frighten the people. I came back to the people myself, and advised them not to attack the policemen or me, for if they did the consequences might be very serious; but I warned them that I was determined to perform the duty that I came on, and if they resisted me, and anything unfortunate happened, they themselves were to blame. I left them then, and they remained in consultation for a little while. Shortly afterwards I heard them whistling again, with a parcel of dogs that I saw coming down, and it appeared to me as if they meant to rush the dogs into the midst of the wild mountain sheep. I told the constable to shoot any dog that rushed in. I came back again, and told the people that I had given such an order, and requested them to call back the dogs, or they might be injured. We proceeded a couple of miles through the sand very quietly; but suddenly coming to a turn, I observed eight or nine sheep running most furiously, and four or five dogs after them. I, being on horseback, rode at the sheep, turned their course, and they ran towards the sea, and we succeeded in this way in getting to the high road. When I got up to the pound, the people I saw were then coming in immense numbers, and wanted them back. I went back to them, and said, "My good people, do not be at all uneasy; your cattle will be safe; you have stocked this gentleman's land, which you have no right to do, and you will have to pay the fine, but you will get your cattle. The cattle were put into pound immediately, and were inside the pound, when I observed Mr. Doherty, the clergyman, on horseback, riding up the road at a most furious pace, and all those people following him. I was apprehensive that a collision would take place at the pound, and I directed the police to mount guard upon it; and I went into the road, and folded my arms, and looked towards Mr. Doherty. Mr. Doherty pulled up his horse, and looked towards me, and we remained in that way, gazing at each other, for some time. Some of the people then came up to him, and he talked with them, and turned round his horse, and after some time Mr. Doherty rode away and the people came up to me. I said, "Now, my good people, I told you you would get your cattle, and so you shall." I then said to a man who spoke to me, "Have you any cattle?" and he said, "Yes, I have." "Go into the pound," said I, "and point out your cattle, and you shall have them." He did so; I sent for the petty sessions clerk to have his name taken down, and had him summoned for this trespass. I said, "My good people, you shall have full and ample time, if there is anything wrong in this matter, to defend yourselves, and there will be 10 or 12 days between this and the next sessions; during that period you can have law advice upon it." Accordingly each of them got their cattle and were served with a summons to appear at the next petty sessions for malicious trespass.

8061. What fine was imposed at the sessions?—Some were fined 10 *s.*, some 15 *s.*, some 5 *s.*, and so on. They paid the fines at once, and thanked us for dealing so leniently with them.

8062. How much altogether did those people pay off the townland of Glashagh for this trespass?—They paid, I should think, something between 20 *l.* and 30 *l.*

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8063. How much do you think they paid altogether, both for trespass and compensation, for the injury done to the cows?—£. 60 or 70 *l.*

8064. Did you remonstrate with them on that occasion?—I said, "I think you are a most foolish people; I am told that your landlord has offered you this land for 30 *s.* a year, and you refuse to give it." They said they would be glad to get it if Mr. Doherty would allow them to take it, but he said that it was contrary to the principles of the Tenant League that they should give more than 20 *s.* a year for it. I then said, "How foolish you are; you have paid within a few months of something about 50 years' purchase for the land, at 30 *s.* a year, and it is ridiculous of you to persevere in this course." Some of them then said, whether Mr. Doherty liked it or not they would take it, and I understand that they did; and shortly afterwards they were glad to take it at four times the amount that Mr. Nixon asked for it at the time; 30 *s.* I understand it was, and they took it at about 6 *l.* a year.

8065. In consequence of this occurrence did you make any communication to the Roman-catholic bishop of the diocese?—I did.

8066. Will you state what the nature of that communication was?—I conceived that Mr. Doherty was not pursuing a course as a Roman-catholic clergyman that I thought he ought, and being myself a Roman-catholic I waited upon the bishop, and I stated all those circumstances to him. I told him of this information and those sworn depositions. He seemed very much shocked at it, and said it was most improper conduct, and he asked what right Mr. Doherty had to impose fines. I said that I knew of none but what the law gave, and he told me that he would take means to stop this sort of work, and the matter rested in that way for some time.

8067. The Roman-catholic bishop is generally respected by all parties, is he not?—Yes; he is a most excellent, amiable man, and he is highly respected by everybody who knows him, even those who only know him by name.

8068. And he concurred with you as to the improper course which Mr. Doherty took upon this occasion?—He did.

8069. When was the first outrage committed on Mr. Woodhouse's property at Alton?—In December 1856 they attacked the shepherd's house; before that these Scotch proprietors had been in the country for a couple of years, I think, or more, without the slightest interference on the part of the people, and had been giving during those years employment to the people in draining those mountains. Up to that period there was no expression of dissatisfaction on the part of the people at the Scotchmen having the mountains, that ever came to my knowledge.

8070. Will you state the circumstances of the outrage in Lillicoe's house?—The police report to me stated that this man's house, in the month of December 1856 (I forget the exact date), was attacked by a large body of people, some of them with white shirts on, and so forth.

8071. You know that Lillicoe was attacked?—I do know that Lillicoe was attacked.

8072. In consequence of this attack, did you take any precautions with regard to stationing more police in the district?—I did; I happened to be in Dublin at the time, and I went into Colonel Larcom's office, and I requested that he would write immediately for two or three men to be sent to protect the shepherd, or his life would be lost; and I further suggested that the two next police stations should be strengthened, so that a constant night patrol might be kept up in communication with the people at the shepherd's house. That was done, and I went down and visited the place, and saw the shepherd and his wife and family. They were in a very deplorable state and greatly frightened, being strangers in the country. His wife, particularly, said she would not stay upon any terms. After, however, a good deal of explanation, I was able to prevail upon the shepherd to consent to remain. I said that a policeman should remain in the house, and if he did not think the men I sent sufficient, I would send more. I said that a policeman would accompany him on the mountain when he was looking after the stock, and I said to him, "You may observe that during the last week the police have come during the night to visit you, besides those." I at length succeeded in getting the man to consent to stay, and he is there to this moment.

8073. Will you state the circumstances of a number of Mr. Huggup's sheep being killed on the 3d of February 1857?—Yes.

8074. Had

8074. Had you an information upon that?—Yes. On the 3d of February 1857, there were 180 sheep of Mr. Huggup's taken away; they were Cheviot sheep; they were taken off the mountain of Meenagoppog, Lord George Hill's property.

8075. Was a meeting of magistrates called in consequence of that?—Yes.

8076. What was the result of that meeting?—An application to Government to send an additional police force to the district, under the Peace Preservation Act.

8077. That district was already proclaimed, was it not?—Yes.

8078. How many additional police were then sent?—Forty-four. I am not quite sure whether 44 came at first, but ultimately there were 44 there.

8079. Were numerous outrages upon sheep subsequently reported to you?—Yes, enormous outrages. On the 12th of February, Mr. William Hunter had 42 sheep maliciously destroyed; on the 14th of February, Mr. James Huggup had 60 sheep maliciously destroyed; Mr. Huggup is the same man who lost the 180; he is a Northumberland gentleman. Mr. Joseph Wright, an English gentleman, who farmed Alton, had 125 taken from him on the 18th; on the 19th, Mr. Huggup had 78 taken, and on the 23d he lost 20 more; on the 28th, Mr. Wright had 87 maliciously destroyed. Those were in the month of February. Then upon the 18th of March, 26 more were taken or destroyed belonging to Mr. James Huggup; on the 24th, 24 were destroyed belonging to Mr. Hunter; on the 5th of April the same gentleman lost 78; on the 6th, Mr. Huggup lost 12; on the 13th, same gentleman had 92 destroyed and plucked of their wool; on the 16th, the same gentleman had 16 sheep treated in the same way; on the 25th, the same gentleman had 22 similarly treated; on the 12th of May, there were seven sheep taken from the same gentleman; on the 21st of May the same gentleman had 22 sheep taken and similarly treated; on the 28th, the same gentleman had 51 similarly treated. Then the outrages ceased for a time, and then on the 1st of December after, 32 were taken from Mr. Hunter.

8080. When you say they were killed and plucked, what do you mean?—That is what I find in the police report.

8081. Were they all killed and plucked?—That is the return; some were found plucked, and some were found killed. On the 1st of December, Mr. Hunter lost 32; on the 3d of February 1858, he lost 11; on the 15th of February, Mr. Hunter lost 111 sheep, maliciously destroyed; on the 20th of February, 21; on the 6th of March, 9; on the 22d of April, 25; on the 23d of April, 30.

8082. Were you present at any searches that were made by the constabulary for those sheep?—Yes; when they first commenced taking them I directed searches to be made in the best manner I could, and when I found that those searches were unavailable, I determined to make a general search, so as to ascertain whether the sheep were alive or dead in the district. I was not out with the men, but I saw them go out, and gave the order. I gave six or eight different orders the night before, to eight or ten police stations, some 20 and some 30 miles distant from that district, and my order was that they were to march in the morning as soon as daylight appeared, and to proceed in a direct line towards the Gweedore hotel, so that the whole country, for an immense distance round the hotel, might be searched. At all the stations I gave directions that they were to march towards the hotel across the mountain, so that 40 or 50 miles might be traversed, and so that if the sheep were alive in the country they should be found.

8083. Mr. *Dobbs*.] What was the date of that search?—That was in the spring of 1857; probably in the month of January or February 1857.

8084. Lord *Naas*.] Were any of those sheep reported as missing found?—Not one; I then came to the conclusion that they could not be alive in the district.

8085. Your belief is, that those sheep that were so reported were actually killed?—The result will show; I then directed the men to search for them as if dead; I had a parcel of instruments procured, long spikes, such as the men use in looking for timber on the mountains, and drags; and I directed the police to commence searching the next day in that way; wherever they saw a new part of the mountain turned up to poke it; they continued to search; the magistrates were that day with me at Gweedore holding some inquiry into the matter, and while we were so employed, a policeman came up and reported to me that they had succeeded in discovering some of the sheep. I immediately

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ordered a car, and went off in the direction he mentioned, as far as the road would take me, and I walked the rest; and some of the magistrates who are in this room accompanied me. We came on to the mountain, and we found a pit which the police had opened up, where the ground was fresh covered up, and where it appeared as if bog timber had been taken out previously, and from the bottom of this some small sheep, that appeared to be Cheviot sheep, were dragged out; their throats were cut across; the wool was torn off their bodies; and, in some instances, cut as if by a scissors or knife; but the wool of all of them was taken off; they were thrown into those holes, and covered to a depth of five feet or six feet; night then came on, and we returned to the hotel.

8086. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] How many sheep were found there?—On that night there were five or six found. I then came to the conclusion that the sheep must have been destroyed. I directed the men that they should continue the search in that way day after day; and we had from the policeman who was upon that duty the result of the searches. The report to me was, that they found, by means of the drags, a number of those sheep in lakes, with ropes tied round their necks, and a stone to the end of the rope, just as you would drown a dog, and that their throats were cut, and the wool torn off in the same manner. They also reported that they found immense heaps of bones buried on the mountain, probably as many as would be the bones of 15 or 20 sheep together, as if they had been boiled and eaten. They also found quantities of wool, which they ascertained to be from the Scotch sheep, for they used a kind of oil to preserve the sheep, which the country people do not. There was besides a quantity of wool found tied up in sheets and quilts, and buried upon the mountain.

8087. Lord *Naas.*] During the progress of those outrages, did you feel it your duty to make any further communications to the Roman Catholic bishop?—Yes. I was of opinion, and still am, that if the clergyman had spoken to the people as he should have done, those things would have been dropped. But different addresses of his having been reported to me, that he had addressed the people so-and-so on such an occasion, and the report being put in writing, I called again upon the bishop, and I told him that this sort of thing was still going on. I complained very much to him, and I said, "It is a dreadful thing the amount of property that has been destroyed, and the cruelty that has been shown in destroying those animals in this manner." He said that it was so, and that he considered it very shocking. The result of it was, that he told me that he would come to the district. He asked me to state the particulars, but I said I would not. I said if he brought Mr. Doherty, the clergyman, before me, I would state in Mr. Doherty's hearing anything I had to complain of, and that if Mr. Doherty could satisfy him that I had taken a wrong notion, I should be very glad of it, and that it would satisfy me also. He then said that he would come down, and he did come down.

8088. What occurred during his visit?—He remained at the Gweedore Hotel two or three days. I was there at the time, and he told me that he would remain at the hotel until the Sunday, when he would speak to the people. Mr. Doherty did come up to the hotel one evening to call upon him, but I think he seemed to me to decline to see him, and as if he did not wish it; and upon the Sunday following he said he would go down and read prayers at the chapel, and that he would himself speak to the people. I told him that morning that it was reported to me by a policeman who was listening at the chapel, that Mr. Doherty had given out from his altar the Sunday previous that the bishop was to come down upon that Sunday, and that he had authority from the Lord Lieutenant to settle all disputes between the landlords and their tenants. The policeman reported that Mr. Doherty had so stated, and on our meeting there I said to the bishop, "I have received a report from the policeman, who says that Mr. Doherty announced from the altar last Sunday, so-and-so. You best know whether you have received a communication from the Lord Lieutenant or not." He looked at me, and said, "You know very well that I have not, and whoever stated that stated what was false." I said "I thought it right to mention it to you, because you are now here, and you are going away; and if that report remains as it is, and no observation is made upon it, the Lord Lieutenant is very likely aware of it, and it would appear as if it was true that you had said so." He thanked me for telling him. The car was at the door for him to go; he asked me if I was going to the chapel, and on my saying that I intended to walk down before prayers,

prayers, he asked me if I had any objection to go with him? I said that I had not, and I went with him on the car to the chapel. Mr. Doherty was there when we went in, and the bishop said to him, "Will you read prayers, as I want to speak to some of those people, who require to be spoken to." Prayers were read, and afterwards the bishop stood up (I was present at the time) and said, "What I have to say I would wish all to hear; but there are such a number of people here to-day that one-third of them would not fit in the chapel;" and he said he would address them from the outside. He came out, and there was an immense crowd, as it appeared to me, in consequence of the previous announcement of Mr. Doherty. There was a scaffolding where the new chapel was building, and a chair having been placed on it, he got up upon the scaffolding, so that the people could all hear him, and Mr. Doherty also came up upon it. The bishop spoke in English and Irish; whatever he said in Irish first he afterwards said in English, and he commenced by saying that he had heard that it was announced from the chapel on the previous Sunday, that he had received a letter from the Lord Lieutenant, asking him to come there and settle all disputes between landlords and tenants. "It was a gross falsehood," he said; "I never did receive such a letter, and I never did authorise such an announcement. I never did interfere between a landlord and his tenant, because I was apprehensive if I did I would do more harm to the tenant than serve him; but I never did refuse to ask a favour from a landlord for his tenant, and I never was refused, or I scarcely ever was refused." He then said to the people, "You have not discontinued your murderous conduct, or even paid me the respect of doing so, since I came to the district; for I understand that you have continued it, and have been killing those people's sheep ever since I came here. If you have been told, and are under the impression that there is any power given to a priest or bishop to absolve you from that sin you have been grossly misinformed. The Almighty never delegated such a power to man; and I tell you, as your bishop, that unless you make restitution to the uttermost farthing of the value of those sheep which you have so destroyed, you never can get absolution." He then said to them, "You are a very unfortunate people; I do not understand you." He said, "Do you mean, a small corner of a parish in the county of Donegal, to stand up and say you will oppose the law of England?" He then used an illustration, with the view of showing those poor people the great power of England. He said, "England has sent out an army to the Crimea, and has conquered the Russians; she has now sent an army to China, and she has conquered the Chinese; and do you mean to tell me that you, a small corner of a parish in the county of Donegal, mean to stand up and say you will oppose the law of England?" That I thought was very strong language; however, it appeared suitable for the purpose. He said they were an unfortunate and foolish people, and he begged them to drop that sort of work. He afterwards went on to speak upon other matters connected with religion, and then he came down from the place.

8089. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What Sunday was that?—That was in 1857, about the time of the collection of the first police tax.

8090. Did the bishop make any statement to you with regard to his intention to remove Mr. Doherty?—He did; there was the bishop near the chapel. The car that we came down in was on a hill near the chapel, and, as we were walking towards it, Mr. Doherty ran after the bishop; the bishop was getting on the car, and Mr. Doherty asked, "When, my lord, are you going?" "Immediately," he said; and he told the car-driver to drive on. When he had passed on, he expressed his dissatisfaction as regards the way in which Mr. Doherty was going on, and he said that he would remove him from the parish.

8091. Lord *Naas.*] Was that done?—It was.

8092. How soon after?—It took some time; the bishop told me that Mr. Doherty refused to obey him, and that there was some difficulty; but, ultimately, the bishop did move him from the parish; the bishop told me so himself.

8093. When was the original order made for the first levy of the police tax?—The police were there, I think, four months; it was in the summer of 1857.

8094. The Act of Parliament requires, does it not, that the warrant for the levy should go to the cess collector of the district?—It did at that time, but it does not now.

8095. The order, in that case, did go to the cess collector of the district?—It did,

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did, to a man of the name of M'Bride, who was examined here, but he would not act.

8096. It was found impossible, was it not, to get any collectors?—Precisely; I was directed to offer a large poundage, and a large sum would have been given besides, but no one could be procured, and I put myself in communication with the Government then, stating so; it was then found necessary, in order to carry out the law, that a special amendment to that Act should be brought in, and it was brought in, and an Act of Parliament was passed specially for the purpose of empowering the Lord Lieutenant to direct his warrant to any person he pleased. After that Act was passed we were in the same position; we could get no one to undertake the duty, and I suggested that as no civilian would act, the warrant should be directed to the constable of police; that was done, and the amount was levied. It was directed to head-constable Young, and he levied the amount, and we took a week to do it. It was said that if the people knew it was to be done, lives would be lost; but the magistrates said, Very well, let them try.

8097. Who was security for head-constable Young?—There was no security for him at that time, but there was when he went to levy the tax for the sheep; but there was not for the levy of the police tax. The warrant for the amount of those first batches of sheep, amounting to something like 1,200*l.*, was also directed to head-constable Young, and then the magistrates of the district all became security for him to the amount of 1,000*l.* or 1,600*l.*

8098. Were you ordered to afford protection to head-constable Young in the performance of his duty?—I was.

8099. Did you afford that protection?—I did.

8100. How many police did you take?—I think 170 men.

8101. What was the date of your attendance on that occasion?—It was, I think, the month of May or June 1857. I took the number of the policemen from the Report; it was in the country, and it was very likely that they would resist, and I thought then, and always do think, that it is better to have an extra number, so as to terrify the people, and prevent them from coming into collision; the tax was collected, every farthing, except 14*s.* or 15*s.*, and paid in money; not a beast was ever sold; they paid it as fast as three men could receive it.

8102. Did any people come to you at the hotel on a certain Sunday while this collection was going on?—Yes.

8103. What communication did they make to you on that occasion?—They said that they saw the folly of all that was going on, and they asked me what I would advise them to do. I told them that I had repeatedly advised them, but it was of no use, as they seemed not inclined to take my advice. "You seem," I said, "to have more dependence, and probably you are right in your view of it, where you are, on Mr. Doherty than on me;" and I said, "You had better go to Mr. Doherty, and see what he would advise you to do." The man answered in Irish (I speak Irish the same as English), and he said, "Mr. Doherty is now put out of the parish, but he has left us ruined before he left."

8104. Sir *William Somerville.*] When this conversation occurred, how many individuals were present?—There were not very many near me at the time, for it was after I had refused to interfere, and was going away from them; then this man came up and used the expression I have mentioned.

8105. Lord *Naas.*] You recollect a petition having been presented to Parliament about the 17th of June 1857?—I do.

8106. Were you told by the Government to proceed to the district of Gweedore, and make inquiry about the names that were signed to that petition?—A copy was sent to me, and I was directed to go and make inquiry. I did so, and I went to several people whose names purported to be attached to that paper.

8107. How many names were annexed to that petition?—Two thousand and seventy-nine, or something about that number. I went to several of those people about Gweedore, whose names purported to be in this paper, and I asked them (they appeared to be put in crosses or marks), if they had authorised Mr. Doherty or anybody else to put their names or marks to that petition, and everybody that I asked said they never did it, and that they never saw it, and they knew nothing of it further than they heard the Rev. Mr. Doherty talk of something like it one Sunday after prayers. In the case of one of them, who was an intelligent man, and who seemed

seemed to be a friend of Mr. Doherty's, they call him James McBride; he writes very well, and I saw his name, and I said to him, "McBride, did you authorise your name to be put on this petition?" and he said, "No, sir," rather in a sullen way. I said, "I am told to ask you; you may as well be civil." "No, sir," says he, "I can write my name, and if I would put my name to a petition I would write my name to it. I never authorised Mr. Doherty to put my mark to it."

8108. Out of those 2,072 names that were appended to that petition, how many did you find to be genuine?—I could not find any; no man ever told me that he had authorised it.

8109. Was the second petition forwarded to Mr. Doherty?—Yes, and it was sent to me from the Castle to inquire into. To that petition there appeared the names of only three, the Rev. Mr. Doherty, the Rev. Daniel O'Donnell, and another clergyman; I forget his name. I took the petition down, and I called on the Rev. Daniel O'Donnell, who is a highly respectable clergyman, and I was surprised and sorry to find his name to it. I called on him, and I spoke to him about both petitions, and he told me that he did sign the first. "That is my writing," he said, "and I regret it exceedingly; I regret it beyond measure." I then said, "Well, that is rather strange, because here is another, bearing date a month later, and your name is also to it." "What, sir?" said he. I handed him the paper. "That is not my name," he said; "I never wrote a line of it; and whose handwriting is it?" I said, "It is Mr. Doherty's, I think, and the name of the other clergyman is in Mr. Doherty's handwriting." "It is," he said; "the three names are in his handwriting; but I never authorised him, nor heard of that paper before."

8110. Did Mr. O'Donnell himself tell you that he did not sign that petition?—He did, and he said that it was Mr. Doherty's writing.

8111. Were you directed by the Government in the month of June this year to make inquiry as to the alleged destitution in this district?—I was.

8112. When did you make that inquiry?—Last month, from the 15th of June; I was directed to proceed to Gweedore to make particular inquiry as to the then state of the district.

8113. How many days did you employ yourself in that investigation?—Three days, from morning to night.

8114. What time in the morning did you generally begin to make your inquiries?—Immediately after breakfast. I had to walk the whole of the day from morning to night, because all those houses are in off-roads.

8115. How many houses did you visit altogether?—One hundred and forty-four, and they were all on Lord George Hill's estate.

8116. Did you find that a great number of the owners of the houses that you visited had received relief from the fund?—A great number, as I find since I came here, from a copy of the book which was handed in by Mr. Doherty. I marked them in my book as I found them in that list.

8117. I find a man in Meenacung of the name of Connell M'Ginley; what did you find in his house?—I found his house shut; but I took with me, not knowing the names of the people, a man of the name of Robertson, who is the agriculturist to Lord George Hill, and head constable Young; this man's house appeared a capital house. The agriculturist was with me, and he told me that he had been there before and took the returns of the cattle; and he said that that man had eight cows.

8118. Was his land cropped?—It was very well cropped.

8119. Did you go into the house of Pat Gallagher, on the same townland?—I did.

8120. What did you find there?—I had been to a great number of houses before I came to Gallagher's, and they were aware that I was in the village; and when I came in I found the woman of the house sitting on the floor and a number of children with her, with a wooden dish with boiled sloak or something of that sort in it, and they were all appearing to be eating it. I asked the woman, "What is that you are eating?" and she said it was seaweed. I asked her if it was sloak, and she said it was. I said, "You have dressed it badly, for if it is dressed well it is a very good thing." On looking round I saw concealed a large wooden dish-full of stirabout which had been made of oatmeal, and I said, "Then you must like this food better than any other." "Why so, sir?" said she. I said, "Because there is a large dish of stirabout there, and if you prefer it, why do not you take it?"

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it?" She seemed surprised that I had seen the stirabout, and she seemed not to like it. I said, "It is quite right in you if you prefer sloak, to eat it;" I then went away from the house.

8121. Was it your impression that she was eating sea-weed in order to allow you to see it?—It appeared so to me.

8122. Did you visit the house of James Doogan?—I did.

8123. Was it a poor house?—It appeared to me to be a poor house.

8124. Had he any cattle in the house?—I went on the mountain, and I saw on the mountain that was occupied by those tenants 53 head of cattle that appeared to be in very good condition, and four horses, and 26 sheep.

8125. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Did they belong to James Doogan?—No one would tell me who they belonged to; and Lord George Hill's man, who was with me, said that it was a mountain that belonged to the people of the village.

8126. Mr. *Dobbs.*] How far was that from the village?—Just adjoining it; it was all their mountain; it was the grazing up by the houses.

8127. Lord *Naas.*] How many houses do you think there were in the village? I was in seven or eight in the village, and there are not many more in the village; I think they told me that Mr. Olphert's mering was just alongside it.

8128. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Would a dozen houses be the outside?—I do not think there were so many.

8129. Lord *Naas.*] Were the people to whom those cattle belonged people of the village?—Mr. Robertson told me so, and that they were upon their mountain.

8130. Did you visit the house of James Ferry?—I did the next day; he lives at Arduns.

8131. What time of the morning did you visit his house?—It was the first house that I visited the next morning; I could not say the hour exactly, but it was immediately after breakfast; it was about a mile and a half from the hotel.

8132. James Ferry was examined before this Committee, was he not?—I understood so; I asked his wife where he was, and she appeared inclined to be rather uncivil, and she said he was about his business. I said, "You have no need to be uncivil, I merely ask the question; I know where he is, he is in London, and I hope he will be taken good care of, and that he will return safe." I saw tied in the end of the house 4 milch cows.

8133. Was there a bed in the house?—There was.

8134. What sort of bed was it?—Not a good one, all the beds were bad; they appear the very strangest people in that particular that I ever saw. I was in the house of a man who I was told was worth 400 *l.*, and anything so bad as the furniture in his house I never saw, and they told me that he had 200 *l.* worth of provisions sold out on credit; the man and his wife were there, and it was as comfortless a house as the poorest.

8135. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Did that man and his family receive relief?—He did; he is returned as No. 307 in Mr. Doherty's book; that was all of the case that I know. I had read Ferry's evidence in the newspaper that morning, that was given here; and as I read his evidence, he stated that he had no cow, but as to one of the cows that I speak of, I knew it to be his own; and why I knew that cow to be his own was this, that at the time that we were protecting Head Constable Young, when he was collecting the police tax, this cow was seized; the man was not at home, and the woman who was then talking to me came down to me to get the cow. The cow was mixed up with a great many others, and she showed me a cow which was rather a remarkable looking one without horns, and I said to her, "The cow will be taken care of, and if you will come to me in the evening to the pound, you shall get the cow back." She came, and she paid the money and she got the cow. I said upon this occasion, "I did not think that you were so well off; you have four cows, and I find you still have the cow that I gave you up; and," I said, "she looks rather better now than she did then;" and she said that they all looked better at this time of the year. I asked her whose were the other cows, and she said, "They belong to friends of mine in the Rosses." "Why are they here?" I said; "they are milk cows, why do they send them to be tied up in the house?" She said that their crop was ready, and some friends sent their cows to them for the purpose of manure. I said, I wondered that they did not send their dry heifers instead of their milk cattle, because they would have answered the purpose of making manure just as well. I then went away, and she ran across the mountain as fast as she could go,

go, and I said to Mr. Robertson, "Where is that woman gone to?" "She is going to Lower Dore," said he, "where her friends live, to apprise them of your coming." I said, "Let her do it if she pleases."

8136. Did you visit the house of James Doherty, No. 319, on Mr. Doherty's list?—Yes.

8137. What did you find in his house; did you find a bedstead?—Yes, I found three bedsteads.

8138. Did you find any bedclothes?—Yes.

8139. Did you find any potatoes?—Yes, a quantity of potatoes.

8140. How much potatoes did you find?—A large quantity; more than he would require to use.

8141. What other furniture was in the house?—He had a spinning-wheel, those beds, and some chairs; he had no cows in his house; but Lord George Hill's man, in his presence, said that this man had five cows.

8142. What townland is he on?—I think it is Arduns.

8143. Did you observe when you got near his house that the people were driving off their cattle?—I did.

8144. Will you state the circumstances?—I saw them running with the cattle, and hunting them out of the village as fast as possible; I said to the man, "You will only injure the cattle; I am not going to interfere with them;" for they were beating them with sticks; but still he headed them off towards the mountain.

8145. Did you visit the house of James Sweeney, No. 323 in Mr. Doherty's book, in the townland of Upper Dore; No. 22 on your own list?—Yes.

8146. What did you find in that man's house?—I found a bed and a bedstead, two chairs, a box, potatoes, and one cow.

8147. No. 26 in your list, Manus Boyle, of the same village, did you visit him?—Yes; he is No. 315 in Mr. Doherty's list.

8148. What did you find in his house?—His cattle were away, and the man Robertson said to me, that the man had three cows and some sheep; his house was locked up.

8149. Did you visit John M'Garvey, of Meenaduff, No. 207 on Mr. Doherty's list?—Yes.

8150. What did you find in his house?—Three beds and bedsteads, and dresser, and three chairs.

8151. Did you see this man?—Yes; I went on the 16th of June, and he would not open his barn door.

8152. Did you look in at the window of the barn?—Yes, and I saw a large quantity of potatoes, a house nearly full of them; and Lord George Hill's man said, in his hearing, that he had five cows and a horse; he is marked as getting relief, No. 599 on Mr. Doherty's list.

8153. How many cows did he tell you he had?—He said that he had but two cows.

8154. Did you visit any other estate except Lord George Hill's?—No.

8155. Is that list (*handing a Paper to the Witness*) an accurate statement of the number of houses that you visited in those three days, amounting to 144?—It is strictly accurate; I will just mention two circumstances that occurred the last morning: I went out and I saw a house that looked to be very comfortable, and I was told by constable Young or Mr. Robertson that the man at that house got relief; I said that it was not possible that that man would take relief; however, I went up to his house; it was a very excellent one; and when I was approaching it I saw a woman running up some stone steps that were outside as if over a granary, and she appeared to be carrying some bundles. The constable said to me, "Look at that." I said, "Yes, but do not you mind her; it is all right; let the woman do what she pleases, why not?" I proceeded to the house and I found a very comfortable house indeed; the man's name is Jack Mulligan, of Magheraclogher, and I find he is marked in the return of Mr. Doherty, No. 66, as having got relief; that man had a very comfortable house; he had three bedsteads and beds in ticks; good bedclothes, dressers, chairs, a table, boxes, a woollen wheel, two sacks of oatmeal; a horse and cart, and eight head of cattle. I then came out, but I found in the room inside there was no bed upon the bedsteads, but straw, and I spoke to the man, and I asked him, "Who sleeps there; where do you sleep yourself?" He said that he slept in the outside room where the bedsteads were, and he said that his children slept there; and I then said, "You are a cruel man to put them to sleep in such a bed as that, when you could afford

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to get them a good bed." He said he could not. I said, "You have eight cattle, a horse and cart, and you have plenty of provisions, and 5 *s.* would make up a bed for those children; it is a shame to you." I then went outside and he followed me, and I said that I wanted to go up to the granary, where the woman was going; he said that the key was lost and could not be had; I said, "I do not want to go into any part of your house that you would not like, but, if you have no objection, I should like to go into the granary." He said, "I have no objection for you to go to any part of my house." The key was got, and I saw a heap of straw in the granary, and upon moving this I saw a very good bed, a bolster, and, I think, five suits of men's wearing apparel and four or five suits of women's apparel; very good clothes covered over with straw. I then came down, for I could not understand what they could mean by this sort of thing; and I said to the people, "I do not understand at all what your object in this is, representing yourselves to the world to be paupers and starving, and all this kind of thing; what is your object for it?" They said nothing; and I then said, "It strikes me that the effect will probably be most injurious to you for the next three or four years; if you go to a fair (and there are three or four fairs at Gortahork, Derrebeg, Dunfanaghy, and Crossroads) the people will point you out, and say to you, in Irish, 'Look at him, he is one of the Gweedore paupers that has been living on sea-weeds; and if you ask the price of anything the fellow would tell you that unless you showed your money first he would not deal with you; you are destroying yourself by this kind of thing; I do not understand it." The man to whom I was speaking shook his head, and said he did not look at it in that way; but I said, "I look at it in that way, and it will have that effect, I am sure."

8156. Throughout your inspection of those houses, did you find any appearance of extreme destitution?—I saw three or four houses which appeared very poor, and they told me that in one or two of them they paid no rent; they were very poor and wretched; but all the houses, even the best kind of them, were the most comfortless houses that I ever was in.

8157. Sir *W. Somerville.*] Do you know how much relief Mulligan got?—No, I do not know; but he is No. 66 on Mr. Doherty's book, and a reference to that will show what he received.

8158. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Will you go on to finish your conversation with Mulligan?—The man's name was not Mulligan, it was Teague Boyle. I came up to this man, after taking down what he had; he appeared to speak English better than the rest of them, and I asked the constable who was with me what that man's name was, and who he was, and he told me that his name was Teague Boyle; he told me also that that man was a servant of Mr. Doherty's for two or three years, and he appeared a very smart, intelligent man.

8159. Lord *Naas.*] What number is this man in Mr. Doherty's list?—No. 657, as getting relief. He came up to talk to me, and he seemed to follow me about, and he said to me, "Now, sir, I know what you are doing very well, and what you are sent down here for, and if you do not contradict the priest we will be all well of." I said "I have no object in anything but to state the fact, and now I have been at your house, there is your name; I do not know whether you can read or not, but if you can read, there is what I have written; I was at your house, and I saw so-and-so there;" and I said to him, "If there is anything wrong there, show me that it is wrong, and I will immediately erase it; or, with regard to any other house on the place, if you can read, I will show you what I wrote; I will go back to it, and if there is anything wrong, I will alter it." He said he would not say anything against it, but he kept at the one thing, that if I contradicted Mr. Doherty, the priest of the parish, I would be destroying them. I said "How will I be destroying you?" "If you do not contradict him," he said, "every one of us will get so much a-head from the Queen." I laughed, and asked him, "Who told you that?" He laughed, and he said "I will not tell you; but," said he, "so it is, and if you do not tell what you you know, we shall get it." I then said to him, "But, my good man, whoever told you that very much deceived you; there is no doubt as to the Queen's goodness and generosity, and so forth, but notwithstanding all that, such a thing as sending so much a-head to each of you after this is over will never be; and," I said, "there is no fund at the disposal of the Government for such a purpose, and you are deceived beyond anything." But I could not convince him; he said, no, if I did not tell what I wrote down then, contradicting the priest, they would get it; but that if I did contradict him, they would not get it.

8159*. You

8159*. You have known this country for some years, have you not?—Yes, since 1852.

8160. Having inspected it very minutely, do you conceive that the condition of the people generally, from their appearance, and from what you saw, is worse than it has been since the famine?—I came there in 1852, and I think that they are as well off this year, if not better, than any year almost since then, except in a very few instances. The potatoes appear to me to be a very good crop; they told me that they grew rather less this year, and that they lost less of them. I did see some six or seven houses where they appeared to me to be extremely poor. The man said in one of those houses, that Mr. Crawford, jun., had been in there. I asked him how much rent he paid, and he said, "I pay no rent."

8160*. Was there a great absence of anything like comfort in the dwellings of those people?—There was the greatest absence of any comfort that I ever saw in any part of Ireland; they seemed not to care for it at all; because as I said, in the case of a man who was worth 400 *l.*, his house was as bad and as comfortless as any of them.

8161. Did you, in company with Head-constable Young, take a commanding position at any time, so that you could see over the country and see a number of cattle?—Upon that occasion I did. I have seen a great deal of cattle this year, and they look better this year than usual.

8162. Did the mountains in the possession of those people seem generally fairly stocked?—I thought so; they appeared to me to be so.

8163. Mr. *Dobbs.*] You state that it is the most comfortless part of Ireland that you ever saw; have you ever seen any part of Ireland where the people were worse off in point of food and fuel?—I was stationed for 17 years in a place called Erris, in the county of Mayo, in the district of Belmullet, and the people in that wild mountain part along the shore reminded me very much of their way of living at Gweedore; it was very much like it; they were very dirty in their houses.

8164. Is their food and diet proportionally bad to the state of discomfort in which they live?—I do not know how they live. The generality of them have potatoes, I believe, and meal and milk; some of them may, and some may not.

8165. When you use the term "comfortable," it is only with regard to the appearance of the houses?—It is only with regard to the appearances of the houses and the furniture, not as regards food.

8166. Had you any means of forming an opinion as to their food, compared with that of other people in the poorest parts of Ireland that you have visited?—I think it is about the same thing; they live in the same way, I believe.

8167. Sir *J. Yarde Buller.*] You mentioned that Mr. Doherty exacted fines; do you know that any of those fines were really paid?—Not more than as I stated. I read the sworn depositions that were sworn before me.

8168. Do you know what power Mr. Doherty has of imposing a fine of that sort and exacting it?—None whatever.

8169. Did not he possess it by any agreement with the people?—None at all; none in the world; and if he did it, he assumed a power that he did not possess in any way.

8170. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Do you know the Rev. Mr. M'Gee, the rector of the next parish?—Mr. M'Gee I know, at Gweedore, and there is another Mr. M'Gee at Dunfanaghy.

8171. Do you know Mr. M'Gee of Dunfanaghy?—I do.

8172. He declined to take any part in these proceedings, did he not?—So I understood, that he refused to sign the appeal, and I understood that he condemned the thing altogether.

8173. Is he a sufficiently active man to understand all the matter?—Yes, he appeared to me to be a good clergyman; he goes about his duties, at least I have heard as much; he is chaplain to the workhouse at Dunfanaghy, and I have heard him read prayers.

8174. Whose did you say was the third signature to the last petition?—I do not recollect; it was either Mr. M'Fadden or another Mr. O'Donnell.

8175. Do you understand that the relief given generally amounted to the tax, or what proportion of the tax; was it half, or the whole of it?—Of my own knowledge I know nothing of it. I was told that in the commencement nobody got relief but those who paid the tax; the people told me so.

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8176. Did Mr. Doherty return to the parish after the bishop had dismissed him?—He did.

8177. Did he return to reside there?—He constantly comes there and stays with the person who replaced him at his house; he lives several miles off, but he is constantly there, of which the bishop complained, and said he would interdict him, and would write to him and take means of stopping it.

8178. Did the bishop express any opinion as to Mr. M'Fadden's proceedings?—He did,

8179. Did he approve of them?—No. There is a circumstance which I think it right to mention. A report was sent to me of an address, or whatever you may call it, that Mr. M'Fadden gave to the people at Gortahork Chapel; it was reported to me officially; and it was my duty to forward it, and when I saw the bishop afterwards, I said to him, "I am sorry to see that this clergyman has used (I told him what had been reported) such and such language; it will have a very bad effect, I think, my Lord, and it ought to be stopped." He disapproved of it very highly, and he said he would speak to M'Fadden, and unless Mr. M'Fadden altered his ways, he would remove him too; in short, a better and a more amiable man than the bishop I do not know.

8180. Was it Mr. M'Fadden, the priest, or the curate?—It was the curate; the young man; I do not know him.

8181. Mr. *Maguire.*] You represent Dr. M'Gettigan, I believe, as he deserves, as a most amiable and wise man?—I do.

8182. And one upon whose word the most implicit reliance might be placed?—Decidedly that is my opinion.

8183. And anything that the bishop would say in 1858, you would be inclined to rely upon as much as what the same bishop said in 1857, would you not?—When I last saw him, anything that he told me I would believe; I believe him to be incapable of telling an untruth.

8184. Do you think that the bishop is a man who would say anything upon which he had not fullest knowledge?—I should hope not.

8185. I think you say that the bishop has been annoyed at the fact of Mr. Doherty's having gone from the parish to which he was preferred to this Gweedore district?—Decidedly; so he told me, and he said that he would not obey him.

8186. What was the date of that conversation?—We had several conversations.

8187. Can you recollect the last conversation in which the bishop expressed to you his indignation at the fact of Mr. Doherty's visits to Gweedore?—I will tell the circumstances; they were these. The old chapel was burnt down, and as the Honourable Member seems to wish it, I will tell the whole. I was at the Gweedore Hotel on the morning that the chapel was burnt.

8188. What was the date?—It was the Thursday before Shrove Tuesday this year. I was at the Gweedore Hotel, and Constable Young came up to me in the morning, and stated to me that an unfortunate occurrence had taken place the night before. I asked what it was; he said, the chapel was burnt. I said I was sorry for it, and I hoped it was accidental, and he said it was. I told him to report to me how he knew it was accidental, and he stated that at his barrack, which I was aware lay upon a height over the chapel, he observed the smoke in the morning a little before day, and that he and his men who were out on the night patrol, and had not gone to bed, all rushed down in a body to the chapel, and found that it was on fire. The chapel was locked, but they forced in the windows. There was a quantity of planking the chapel for the building of the new one, which he said they removed through the windows. While they were at this work he told me that Mr. M'Gee, the priest, came down, and he asked him how it happened. The chapel was locked, and the priest opened it; and when he came Mr. M'Gee said, "Them unfortunate weddings last night." I said, "What does he mean by 'them unfortunate weddings last night'?" "Why, sir," said he, "Mr. M'Gee went over to Dunfanaghy to attend one of those relief meetings there; and it being before Shrove Tuesday a couple came to be married, and when the priest was not at home they waited at the public-house for him to come, as they were told that he was expected back. Another couple, too, came, and another couple; in short, three couples came there." He said that the priest remained until about eight or nine at night (this was in the month of February or March), and the people were on the watch, and when he passed by the public-house one of them called after him and told him his business.

Mr.

Mr. M'Gee said, "Very well, go to the chapel and I will be there presently." Accordingly, though it was that hour of the night, the people went to the chapel; they had been drinking and smoking all day at the public-house, and they brought coals from the public-house for them to light their pipes with. The wedding parties then went to the chapel, and the three couples were then married, and the constable stated to me that it was "them unfortunate people" who brought coals to the chapel; the workmen had been at work, and shavings were strewed about, which were set fire to, and the chapel was burnt. I then said it was very unfortunate to be sure, but it could not be helped, and I went home. I now come to the last conversation with the bishop with regard to this transaction. It was reported to me by the constable that serious alarm was felt among the Protestant portion of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood about the chapel, in consequence of what Mr. Doherty had said on the Sunday following, the report stating what Mr. Doherty did say. I felt it my duty, in consequence of that report, to go back to Gweedore immediately, and I did so. There were very few Protestants in the neighbourhood; I think there were only the coast-guard and the schoolmaster; very few indeed; and I understood that they were greatly frightened, and that the people were ready probably to attack their houses, in consequence of what Mr. Doherty had said. "What did he say?" I said to Mr. Young. "He came down," said he, "on the Sunday or the Saturday night, from his own parish, and after Mr. M'Gee had read prayers, Mr. Doherty got up and said to the people, 'Do not be misled by anybody who tells you that this chapel was accidentally burnt, because I tell you it was not; it was a wicked and malicious burning on the part of the Protestants of the district.'" This was the man's report to me, and he told me that Mr. Doherty said, that there was a handsome church at Dunlewey, and if the windows were broken in, that is, if that was done, they would not say it was the Protestants who did it. I said, "But surely Mr. M'Gee was there, the clergyman who told you how it happened; what did he say?" and he said, "The constable who was there told me that Mr. M'Gee said that he fully concurred with every word that Mr. Doherty had spoken, that it was a wicked and malicious burning." Then I come to my conversation with the bishop. I went to the bishop; I was in his neighbourhood, and passing through the town in which he lives; there is a ferry in it that I am in the habit of using, and I called to see him. He asked me when I went in, when I was last at Gweedore. I said, "There is always something happening at Gweedore; did you hear what happened there last week; did you hear of the chapel being burnt?" "I did," he said. I then asked him how he had heard it, and he told me that a man, whose name he gave me, came up to him to get a dispensation, for his daughter was going to be married on Shrove Tuesday, and that this man was one who was at the wedding the night before, and he told him of it. I said, "I think you ought to go down and inquire into the matter altogether." "What business have I," said he, "going down to inquire into what I know? I know how the chapel was burnt." I said, "Was it not wrong to have those marriages solemnised at such an hour of the night?" "Most wrong," he said, "and contrary to all the rules of the church; but I shall take means to reform it." Then, I said, "I shall mention to you another circumstance which will make it even still more necessary that you should go down there." He said, "What is that?" "I have a report," I said, "stating that Mr. Doherty went back there upon the Sunday after the burning, and that he did so address the people." He shook his head. "What brought Mr. Doherty there?" he said. "In fact, my Lord," I said, "I ought to ask you." "He has no right," said he, "to go there; he has enough to do to mind his own parish, and he has no business there at all, and I will write directing him not to go there." I said, "I should be very glad if you did, for I do not find that his visits are of any use." "But," said he, "what did Mr. M'Gee say?" I said, "Mr. M'Gee, as is reported to me, said that he concurred in what Mr. Doherty said," and the bishop expressed very great astonishment at it. That was the occasion on which he said that he had interdicted it.

8189. Did you make an investigation into this matter, of the alleged malicious or accidental burning?—I did, and upon oath.

8190. What was the result of your inquiry?—I examined two or three witnesses, and they said that the wedding parties were in the public-house all day; and I said to one of the witnesses, "You had not been idle; I suppose you drank plenty, all of you?" and he said, in answer to that, "Upon my oath we were able

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to walk the road." I said to him, "Did you not bring burning coals from the whisky-house, and pipes smoking with you?" and he said he did.

8191. Did they say that they brought them into the chapel?—No.

8192. Lord *Naas*.] Is there the least doubt on your mind that this was an accident?—Not the slightest.

8193. Mr. *Maguire*.] Did you say to those people who gave you that evidence, that you would not believe them more than dogs?—No.

8194. Do you say that positively?—I do, I did not say it.

8195. You have so good a memory, and you do not remember that?—I do, perfectly well; I remember where the occurrence took place, and I did not say so, because I did believe them to be telling me the truth.

8196. You state that you were present when the bishop made his address from the platform?—I was.

8197. That was in April 1857, was it not?—Indeed it might be, it was about that time of the year.

8198. Do you know of your own knowledge that the bishop appeared on that very same platform on the 29th of April 1858, exactly one year after?—I do not know it.

8199. Had you no one to report that fact?—I heard that he was there, but I had no knowledge of it; I was not there, and I did not hear that he was on the platform; I heard that he was in Gweedore, but I did not know whether he was at the chapel or not.

8200. Many of your constables are of your own persuasion, are they not?—Some of them are, and some are not.

8201. Did any of the constables attend chapel on that 29th of April 1858?—Not that I know of.

8202. From whom did you hear that he was there?—From the common report of the country; I think it was when I went to the hotel again they said that the bishop was there, and the bishop himself, the day that I saw him, told me that he intended to go down there for a confirmation, or something of the sort, and he told me too the houses that he would stop at.

8203. Did common report impart to you the fact, that the bishop, from that very platform from which before he told the people to stop their murderous outrages, declared his belief that the people had not killed those sheep?—I do not know whether he did or not.

8204. I want to ask you, did rumour bring to your ears the fact that the bishop on that occasion to which I allude, when he visited this place for a second time, stood on that same platform, and expressed his belief that the people of the district did not kill the sheep?—I did not hear that he said so.

8205. Are you a reader of the "Dublin Evening Post"?—Seldom; I do not get it; I have no time to read any papers except those that I get myself, and it is not one of the papers that I take in.

8206. Even though you see the "Evening Post" but seldom, did you happen to see a number of it a short time after that visit of the bishop, to which I allude, in which there was a condensed report of the bishop's sermon or address which the bishop preached or delivered on that occasion?—Never.

8207. Did you ever hear about it?—No.

8208. Did rumour bring it to your ear?—No; I live in a very remote part of the country, and I seldom go to a town; my district is all through this wild mountain country, and I have not even time to read my own newspaper.

8209. Would not your immediate and direct interest in this matter be naturally excited, and your attention be aroused by the fact that the bishop, upon whose word you would rely, visited that district in 1858?—I tell you again I heard that he was there.

8210. You inquired no more?—I inquired no more; it struck me that he was going upon this confirmation business, which he told me of himself; and I heard that he did speak to the people, but I never heard what he said, nor did I ever hear one word of what you have just said to me; nevertheless he might have said every word of it.

8211. In your accidental reading of the "Evening Post," did you see a letter signed by Dr. M'Gettigan himself, in which he stated this, that the appeal made by the clergymen was not only true, but that it was understated in its facts?—I did not, nor did I ever read a letter since the commencement of the affair, purporting to be signed by Dr. M'Gettigan, in any paper.

8212. Did

8212. Did you ever hear that there was such a letter written, or appeared in the public press, signed by Dr. M'Gettigan?—I heard that there was a letter from Dr. M'Gettigan in the public press, but I never saw it, nor do I know its contents.

8213. Did you ever hear its contents?—No, I heard that there was a letter of his in the public press as regarded the distress, and my reply was this, "If he seems to say there is something of it now, he has changed his mind very much."

8214. What was the substance of that which you heard?—Not more than I have already told you in general terms, that there was something appeared in the paper from Dr. M'Gettigan, as regarded the distress at Gweedore, and transmitting some monies that had been forwarded to him; and I said, "If he thinks that distress is there now, he has altered his opinion."

8215. Did he, from what you could gather from the purport of that letter, express his belief that distress did exist, and that he did approve of the conduct and proceedings of those clergymen?—I do not know that; I never heard of it.

8216. There were two petitions, were there not?—Yes.

8217. Was not the second petition an exact *fac simile* and copy of the first?—No.

8218. Have you them here?—No.

8219. Did you examine them?—I did; I read them attentively.

8220. Are you positive that the one was not a copy of the other?—I could not tell you that positively; I believe it was not; I think the latter one was urging a reply to the former, that is so far as my recollection serves me.

8221. I ask you, from your knowledge of the fact (because there is an alleged imputation of forgery against this clergyman, that he used the names of people, and without authority signed that petition), was not one petition a copy of the other?—No; my recollection is that it certainly was not; so anxious was I that both of these documents should be here, that I wrote to have all those papers sent to the Irish Office here yesterday; I wished that they should make every search for those papers, but I have only copy of one.

8222. Have you a copy of both?—No.

8223. According to your recollection, will you state deliberately whether the second one was not a copy of the first?—It was not. The first took several pages, and the next took but a page and a half, so that it could not possibly have been a copy; that I state upon recollection; and in talking to the Rev. Daniel O'Donnell I said, "How can it be, sir," when he expressed regret at signing the first, "when a month after you have signed this?" I gave him the paper, and he read it, and he said, "I never signed it; Mr. Doherty signed it; that is his writing."

8224. You positively state to the Committee, having fallen back upon your memory, that the one was not a copy of the other?—That is my positive impression.

8225. You spoke of the Rev. Mr. M'Gee as being a very sensible and excellent clergyman, which no doubt he is?—I said that I knew Mr. M'Gee, and I said that he was a very respectable man and a good clergyman; that is my opinion.

8226. Is not that clergyman practically superseded, on account of his age and feebleness?—It is very strange if he is; he reads prayers, and I have heard him.

8227. Is he or is he not superseded?—I say that I heard him read prayers, and he was the chaplain of the workhouse when I was at Dunfanaghy last time I was there.

8228. Are not his duties restricted to the workhouse, and not to his parish?—Not that I ever heard of.

8229. Have you ever heard to the contrary?—I have not.

8230. Is it not generally the case that a curate is sent, unless under extraordinary circumstances, to officiate at a workhouse or gaol?—I do not know; I know that my own parish priest at Donegal reads prayers in the workhouse.

8231. Has not that clergyman two curates?—I do not know.

8232. You spoke, did you not, of Teague Boyle as being the priest's servant?—The constable told me that he was so; I did not know whether he was or not; I did not know the man at all; I never saw him but that day in my life, to my recollection.

8233. With regard to this matter about the tails of the cows which you mentioned,

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tioned, you read a number of *ex parte* statements or depositions?—I read them from the Government file.

8234. Are they not *ex parte* statements?—They were statements made upon oath before me and other magistrates.

8235. Was Mr. Doherty present when they were sworn?—No.

8236. Did the Rev. Mr. Doherty receive any intimation that such an inquiry was about to be made?—I do not know; I went down in the course of my duty to inquire about the cattle.

8237. After those statements were made, were there any means given to the Rev. Mr. Doherty of disproving before the bench of magistrates the allegations in those informations?—I conceive that I gave him the means: I refused to state to the bishop any complaint against Mr. Doherty unless he was present; and when he pressed me hard, I said, "I have some official documents in my possession, bearing the mark of the Chief Secretary's Office upon them—sworn depositions, and I will allow you to read them." He read them attentively, and so did another bishop as well as he; and I think that Mr. Doherty would have the means through those bishops of getting information.

8238. Had he ample means at the time of this investigation, when those allegations were made against him, of disproving them before you and your brother magistrates?—The only thing I know is this, that those persons who were his own parishioners, and of his own persuasion, who heard the evidence given, could tell him of it if they liked to do so. I thought that they were of that nature that it was my duty to forward them to the Government, and I believe that they were laid before the Attorney-general of the day.

8239. At any rate you did not give Mr. Doherty any opportunity on that occasion to rebut those allegations?—Certainly not. I did not think it my duty. I forwarded them to the Government.

8240. Did you on any occasion examine those people afterwards, as to the alleged fines imposed by the clergyman?—I am not aware; nothing ever came to my knowledge to contradict that statement, made upon oath by the people themselves.

8241. Did not you examine some of those persons who were said to have been fined by the priests, and in point of fact, did they not contradict what was sworn on that day?—No such thing.

8242. Are you positive of that?—Positive. My recollection is positive upon the fact that no man ever came to me, to my knowledge, to contradict that statement.

8243. In any inquiry that you made on any subsequent occasion, was the fact in any instance disproved that the fine was imposed by the priests?—Never, to my recollection.

8244. Did you tell the bishop that you examined 17 of those people?—No, never. I let him read what I had, and I told him nothing. I gave him the documents and he read them.

8245. Do you know anything about Sweeney, Mr. Nixon's bailiff?—I do.

8246. Is he a person upon whose testimony you would like to rely?—I often heard him charged with falsehood, but nevertheless I have had him examined before me repeatedly upon oath, and I have not discovered that he swore a lie. He was the principal witness in a case where two men were tried and transported, and the men themselves told me afterwards that what Sweeney swore was true, except in one instance, where he was mistaken, and there I used all possible means with the Government, and got the men liberated from it. It was since the present Ministry came in that that was done.

8247. Is Sweeney a person upon whose evidence you would like to rely?—I have already given the Committee the best description I can of him; he has been repeatedly examined before me on oath, and I have not found him swear falsely.

8248. Did you ever hear that he was charged with swearing falsely?—I have heard that he was charged with swearing falsely.

8249. I am simply going to ask you if you know that this Sweeney, Mr. Nixon's bailiff, was dismissed from the service of Lord George Hill?—I do.

8250. Do you know what for?—I was told that he had got the strongest character from Lord George Hill's agent to Mr. Nixon before Mr. Nixon employed him. Mr. Nixon told me so.

8251. I ask you now again; did you hear that this man Sweeney, Mr. Nixon's bailiff,

bailiff, was dismissed from the service of Lord George Hill?—It was before I went to the country. I had heard that he had left, but I did not hear that he was dismissed; that was long before I came to the district at all; when this inquiry came about Sweeney and all those things, Mr. Nixon told me of his having got a written character of Sweeney from Mr. Forster, Lord George Hill's agent.

8252. You said that on a particular occasion, during the excitement of a riot, you saw the Rev. Mr. Doherty riding up furiously?—Yes.

8253. What did Mr. Doherty say to the people at that time?—I do not know; he was not within hearing distance of me.

8254. What was the result of Mr. Doherty's presence upon the people; whatever inducement he used, the people were quiet, and more easily managed afterwards, was not that so?—Not at all.

8255. What did Mr. Doherty say to them?—I have told the Committee already that he was not within hearing distance, and I did not hear one word he said, either in English or Irish.

8256. The people were riotously disposed before, and you were obliged to threaten them with the extreme penalty of the law?—No; that was when the cattle were in the sand banks; I was afraid they would drive off the cattle, and I cautioned them against doing so.

8257. I ask you what did Mr. Doherty do on that occasion that bore the semblance of a desire to disturb the peace?—I did not charge him with that.

8258. What do you mean by saying that he rode up furiously?—I say that he rode in a very fast pace up the road from the island, and when I parted the people in the village near his house, immediately after I saw Mr. Doherty gallop up the road, and those people after him.

8259. From your own knowledge of the Catholic clergymen of that district, is it not the most probable, as well as the most charitable interpretation of that fact, that hearing that there was some danger of a collision, that Catholic clergyman rushed up furiously on horseback to prevent that collision?—That is what I have generally found Catholic clergymen do (I am not now referring to Mr. Doherty), and I have received great assistance from them on almost all occasions, in the preservation of the peace. I scarcely recollect any instance in any other parts of Donegal or Ireland where the Catholic clergymen did not give me their assistance.

8260. After that, whatever Mr. Doherty did, whether it was against the law or in favour of it, the people came quietly, and yielded up their cattle, and you had an easy victory?—Not at all; I had the cattle in the pound at that time.

8261. Was not peace restored?—There was no war at all.

8262. Did not you represent yourself as being excessively heroic?—Not at all.

8263. You believed, at any rate, that the peace was in imminent peril?—At one period, when the cattle were on the sand-banks, miles from any houses, when I saw an immense number of people collecting, shouting and calling; and when I saw that their number quadrupled any force that I had, as I was doing what they did not wish I thought they would come down and resist me, as they had force enough to do it.

8264. Was that force diminished when Mr. Doherty rode up?—Indeed it was not; the people were as quiet after I had spoken to them; after I had told them I would bring the cattle at all hazards, and as long as the policemen and I lived, I would not part with them, the people were perfectly quiet, and never even talked loud till they came to the village where Mr. Doherty lived.

8265. First of all, I think you stated that you saw the greatest absence of comfort in this district that you saw in any part of Ireland?—I said comfort in their dwellings.

8266. Do you know anything about the county of Meath?—I do.

8267. Do you know anything about the property of the Rev. Mr. Nixon; did you go over that property?—I know something about it.

8268. Will you say from your inspection of the houses that you visited on that day, that there was as much substantial comfort in them as in the houses of the peasantry of Meath and Queen's County?—No; the people in the Gweedore district appear to me not to know what comfort is; they keep their cattle in their houses, and the heaps of manure that I saw at the bedside astonished me.

8269. At any rate, did you see any indications of what you would call substantial comfort in this district?—Does the Honourable Member mean as regards food?

 8270. I mean

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8270. I mean as regards good food, good clothing, and good bedding?—I tell you that their beds are very bad everywhere in the district. I never saw beds so bad as I saw in houses where it was told to me that the inmates were worth hundreds of pounds.

8271. What is your definition of a bed; do you mean a bed in a tick?—Yes.

8272. In the 144 houses that you saw, how many ticks were there?—There was scarcely one that had not a tick, and some of them had two, and some three.

8273. Did you personally examine as to the fact whether there were tick beds in every one of those 144 houses?—Some few had not, but it was very few; I took the beds in my hands, so that I can speak positively.

8274. You say that the majority of those 144 had ticks?—Far beyond the majority.

8275. Who was with you at the time?—Mr. Robertson and Head-constable Young, every day and at every house; the last day Mr. Robertson was not with me; he had a summons to come here; but two days he was with me.

8276. How many houses did you visit on the two first days?—The greater number; I should say two-thirds.

8277. How is it that Mr. Robertson differed from you as to the number that you visited on those two days?—I cannot tell; I wrote down the names, and Mr. Robertson did not.

8278. Is it not rather singular that Mr. Robertson, who did write down the names, hands in a list which gives but 49; how do you account for that?—I state that if he said that we visited only 49, he said what was not quite correct.

8279. How is the discrepancy between you and Mr. Robertson to be explained?—If you like I will give the number that I visited on the days when Mr. Robertson was with me. No. 71 was the number of the first house that I visited on the 17th of June, which was the only day that Mr. Robertson was not with me. I am prepared to state on oath that I visited, while Mr. Robertson was with me, 70 houses.

8280. Did you examine those houses in the early part of the year?—I never examined them but that day, and I was never directed to do so.

8281. It was the 15th of June that you commenced your inspection, after the relief had been distributed, was it not?—The 15th, 16th, and 17th.

8282. Did you hear that clothes, food, and money had been distributed to the people?—I did.

8283. Even assuming that the relief had been improperly distributed, would not the people be in a better position, after having received the relief, than before they received relief?—Certainly.

8284. You do not know of your own knowledge that the bishop, Dr. M'Gettigan, has changed his belief as to the persons who were guilty of those outrages?—No.

8285. I ask you, did you change your mind in reference to it?—No, my opinion is the same now that it always was.

8286. Is it your opinion that the Gweedore people and the other people killed the sheep?—Decidedly.

8287. Do you happen to know a clergyman named the Rev. Dr. Mulreany?—Yes; he is a Roman Catholic priest, and a very respectable man.

8288. Do you know the Rev. Mr. Gallagher?—I know several Mr. Gallaghers.

8289. Do you know the Rev. Mr. Gallagher of Mount Charles?—I do.

8290. Do you know the hand-writing of the Rev. Dr. Mulreany (*handing a letter to the Witness*)?—I think it is his hand-writing.

8291. I think you said that the Rev. Dr. Mulreany is a very respectable gentleman?—Highly so.

8292. You state that you recognise his hand-writing. I will read you this portion of a letter from him referring to yourself; it is written from Donegal, and is dated 24th June 1858: "But lest I should forget, I wish to say a word about Stipendiary Cruice, and I wish you to take a note of it; about 10 or 12 weeks ago, he said in presence of the Rev. Mr. Gallagher, Hugh Mulreany, and your humble servant, in the little room of Hugh's shop, that it was his opinion that the shepherds themselves were the parties who destroyed and were destroying the sheep in Gweedore. Mr. Gallagher has a most perfect recollection of this conversation, and has given me liberty to make use of his name in support of what I have stated." Did you make that statement?—It is false; I never said it, nor a word tantamount to it.

8293. Did

8293. Did you not say a word that would bear that construction?—Never, so help me God; my belief was directly the opposite, and is so to this moment.

8294. Had you ever a conversation at any time with Mr. Murray, a solicitor, in reference to the same matter?—I had various conversations with Mr. Murray.

8295. Did you ever give Mr. Murray to understand that it was your idea that the people of Gweedore had not killed the sheep?—Never.

8296. And did you never let him understand in any way that your impression was that the shepherds had made away with them?—Never. After the first destruction of the sheep ceased, after the price of the sheep was levied, and when the sheep were again taken, I did then express my opinion, and it is still very much my opinion, that the latter sheep were not taken by the Gweedore people, but by people outside; I said I did not believe it was the people of Gweedore who took them.

8297. Are the people of Gweedore still paying for those sheep, which you do not believe they destroyed?—I do not know; I say that I did express that opinion after the large body of sheep was paid for; after 1,600*l.* sheep-tax and 800*l.* police-tax were paid, I did say that my opinion was, that that small number of sheep that were afterwards taken were taken by people outside, and that I did not think that the Gweedore people, who had suffered so much, would take them.

8298. Had you a conversation with Mr. Murray after the last assizes, with respect to that matter of the sheep destruction?—Not that I recollect; I had various conversations with Mr. Murray, because he was concerned for those people as their solicitor, and he came to me on various occasions.

8299. After Mr. Hunter went before the presentment sessions, when they consented to give compensation for 30-odd sheep, had you a conversation with Mr. Murray on the subject?—I am not aware.

8300. I mean before the spring assizes?—I am not aware. I had various conversations with him: if you will call any particular one to my recollection I will answer you; if you ask me whether I said so-and-so to Mr. Murray, I will say whether I did or not.

8301. Did you state at that time to Mr. Murray, that it was your impression that the Gweedore people were innocent of the sheep; that it was the Rosses' people, and that you would do all in your power to endeavour to get the Gweedore people relieved?—That was the time I have stated; after the first sheep were paid for, I stated that my impression was, that the latter sheep were not taken by the Gweedore people.

8302. Was not that before the levy for the last sheep?—I think not; I did state most decidedly, that my private impression was that the latter sheep were not taken by the Gweedore people; the sheep taken after they paid for the first sheep; after the large presentment for 1,500*l.* or 1,600*l.*

8303. I am now speaking of after the presentment for Mr. Hunter's 32 sheep; did you not say that to Mr. Murray?—That was last December; that was a year after the sheep money was levied.

8304. Was not there a levy after that?—No, there was no other levy but the one.

8305. Were not Mr. Hunter's 32 sheep levied for?—No, they were not levied for.

8306. Were they presented for?—I believe they passed the presentment sessions.

8307. Was not the presentment fiated at the assizes?—If the assizes passed it it was, but I do not know.

8308. Do not you know that Mr. Hunter got compensation from the grand jury for those 32 sheep?—I do not; I know this, that every sheep that he got compensation for he got before.

8309. I ask you whether, after the presentment sessions at which those sheep were presented, you did not express your belief to Mr. Murray that the people of Gweedore were not guilty, but that it was the Rosses' people, and that you would do all in your power to prevent a levy upon people whom you believed to be innocent?—Yes; I stated again and again to the magistrates, when we were consulting together for the last sheep that were taken as to what townland the tax should be put upon, that my impression at that time was that the latter sheep were not taken by the unfortunate Gweedore people; I said that they had already suffered so much, that my impression was that they were taken by the people in the

the immediate neighbourhood; and upon that, Mr. Conolly's agent came down and met us at the Gweedore Hotel, and we had some of Mr. Conolly's tenants brought down there, who lived near Dohery Bridge, 18 miles off, to be examined, upon my representations to that effect.

8310. Was that levy imposed upon those people whom you believed to be innocent?—I do not know the townland upon which it is allotted at all; it is granted, but I do not know the townland; I did not levy it, and I did not know whether they were innocent or guilty; I only expressed that private opinion.

8311. Is not that a proof that it is levied *(handing a book to the Witness)*?—That is the county book, but there never was a levy but one.

8312. Lord *Naas.*] Is that the book of the last spring assizes?—I suppose it is.

8313. Mr. *Maguire.*] To recall your recollection to the matter of those statements made against Mr. Doherty as to the fines, did you cause to be brought before you and your brother magistrates sitting at Bunbeg petty sessions, a week or a fortnight after those depositions were taken, people who were said in those depositions to have been fined by the priest?—I have no recollection; if you mention the names of the people, and that sworn depositions were taken, I will be able to answer you.

8314. If Mr. Doherty did impose those fines, no doubt he acted illegally?—No doubt.

8315. If he did act illegally, was not it your duty to have him punished?—No doubt.

8316. Did you, or did you not, for the purpose of knowing whether you had grounds to go on, summon or cause to be brought before the bench a number of persons who were declared to have been fined by the Rev. Mr. Doherty?—I have no particular recollection of that fact.

8317. Do you say positively that there were no persons summoned by you and your brother magistrates sitting at Bunbeg petty sessions, for the purpose of gleaning information from them, whether the statements made in those depositions were true or false?—No, I have no recollection at all, but it might have occurred; it is four or five years ago.

8318. If it did occur, what was the result of the depositions?—I have no recollection of that.

8319. Did the thing break down?—Not at all; my impression is that it never broke down. If you ask me what my duty was, my duty was to submit that sworn deposition to the Government, and it was laid before the Attorney-general for his opinion as to whether Mr. Doherty had violated the law or not.

8320. What was the answer?—That they would not prosecute; that they did not think it advisable; but at the same time expressing a strong opinion as to the impropriety of his conduct.

8321. You say that you did not cause people to be summoned before the Bunbeg petty sessions to inquire into this matter?—I have not the slightest recollection of it.

8322. Did Mr. Doherty on any occasion assist you to have a book that had been taken from Mr. Robertson restored to him?—Not that I am aware of.

8323. Do you remember anything about a book?—I do, and that he was before me in the petty sessions court about it; Mr. Robertson's rent-office was broken into and was robbed, and an account-book taken from it; it was a private account-book of Mr. Robertson's own, in which he stated to me that he made entries of payments made by him to some persons for Lord George Hill, and that if that book was not procured, he would never be able to settle his account, or show how he expended those moneys; I was anxious to get that book for him, and determined, and different means were thought of to get it; a man who has been examined here, Thomas M'Bride, was deeply implicated in the affair, as it came before me upon the informations; he made different statements as to who was there, and he was brought up at the assizes, but he did not support his information. I would not place the slightest reliance upon anything he would swear before me, and I have told him so. I then found that the book was traced to Mr. Doherty, and I had Mr. Doherty brought before me; Mr. Doherty said that the book was given to him, but he would not tell who gave it to him.

8324. Was not it distinctly promised that if that book were returned there should be no prosecution?—No.

8325. Did you say nothing like it?—Mr. Doherty was before the magistrates, and

and was sworn, and he said he would never answer the question when he was asked who gave him the book. I said to my brother magistrates, "If Mr. Doherty got that book in a certain way, according to the tenets of our church, he could not divulge it, and do not press the question." The Act was produced, showing the power that the magistrates had to commit him if he did not answer; we spoke together, and the question was dropped; he was not asked any more.

8326. Is Mr. Robertson, besides being a rent collector of Lord George Hill's, also the petty sessions' clerk?—He is nominally so; there is another man that acts.

8327. Is it not the fact that Mr. Robertson went with the authority of Mr. Forster and Mr. Cruice to Mr. Doherty, to say that if he used his exertions to get this book given up, there would be no prosecution?—He might have gone with Mr. Forster's authority, but not with mine. I gave no authority, because I would not venture to do anything of the kind.

8328. You do not know whether Mr. Forster did or not?—No, indeed I do not.

8329. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] When was this?—Several years ago.

8330. Mr. *Maguire*.] Did not you tell Mr. Doherty that you knew the fact that it was promised to him, that if the book were restored there would be no prosecution?—No, because I could not tell him what I had no power to do; you are quite aware that I have no power to stay a prosecution.

8331. Mr. Doherty, you say, was removed by the bishop?—Yes, he was.

8332. Would you represent that as a punishment upon Mr. Doherty?—Certainly; the bishop condemned his conduct beyond anything.

8333. He condemned his conduct, and desired to punish him?—He said he would remove him from the parish; he said there was a great difficulty in removing a parish priest having got a parish; but he said, fortunately he was then in a position to change him, inasmuch as there was a vacant parish in the diocese, and that it was even a better one than the one he had; I said that I was delighted; that I would be glad, for it would save 2,000 *l.* if he went away from this parish.

8334. That was a singular way of punishing Mr. Doherty, by sending him to a better parish?—He then told me that Mr. Doherty resisted, and would not obey him.

8335. Of course the bishop had no power to remove him?—He had, afterwards, if he transgressed the canon law; he heard those depositions, and he complained that it was an offence against the canon law.

8336. Do you know that it was reported that if Mr. Doherty consented to be removed from that parish, the people would have the advantage of an allowance in the sheep-tax?—I do not know; I know that if a certain course was taken with Mr. Doherty's successor, the people would have been saved nearly 2,000 *l.*

8337. I think you alluded to an inflammatory address in 1857 by the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden?—I stated that I received a private report, giving an account of the words used by him, which took up a page and a half.

8338. Have you the particulars of that?—No; I then forwarded it to the Government.

8339. Did you make a complaint to the bishop?—I did, and told him what was in the paper, and I showed it to the bishop.

8340. Did this good and sensible bishop remove this curate?—He told him that if he did not stop he would remove him.

8341. Did he remove him?—No.

8342. Has not the bishop complete power over a curate?—He said that he was a curate, and that he would, if he did not cease this work, remove him, and that he would speak to him.

8343. Was Mr. Doherty, or was Mr. M'Fadden, suspended by the bishop, or visited with ecclesiastical censure?—I do not know; you have read the letter from Dr. Mulreany, who, as I said, was a very respectable man; no doubt he is; and as he has alluded to me, I think it right that I should make an observation; he has repeatedly talked to me of these Gweedore affairs, and of Mr. Doherty, and in all instances has condemned Mr. Doherty, and said that he was a wrong-headed man; and he said, "I wish I could get you and him together, and you would just talk the matter over, and influence him." I said "That cannot be, because my opinion is, that I am going one course, as directed by the Government, I cannot alter it, and I will not alter it, and he is going another;" and he said he thought that Mr. Doherty was going wrong.

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8344. From your knowledge of this gentleman, whose character you praise so much, do you think that on any other subject that man would sit down and deliberately write a lie?—I should be surprised at it; but if he wrote that, it is false.

8345. There is the letter?—It is perfectly false.

8346. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] Might not this misapprehension have arisen from that which you have told us already, namely, the distinction between the latter and the former sheep, and that you had expressed your opinion about the sheep that had been lost since December?—All I know is, that what I said was, that in consequence of the people having suffered so much in paying the police and sheep-tax, amounting to 2,000 *l.*, I did not think that they would persevere in those outrages, and that it was some persons outside of the Gweedore district who were guilty.

8347. May not that be what is alluded to in that letter?—I think it could not, for it says the Scotch shepherds, and that I had repeatedly talked to him about the Scotch shepherds.

8348. Mr. *Maguire.*] I think you stated that the people said that Mr. Doherty told them it was against the principle of the Tenant League that they should do something or other; what was that?—That they should pay more than 1 *l.* a year for their farms.

8349. Who told you?—The tenants.

8350. Have you the names of the parties?—No; it was five or six years ago, and I did not think it was necessary to recollect.

8351. You said that you saw some very poor houses, and you found some people inhabiting them who did not pay rent; did you find any poor houses where the occupant of it did pay rent?—I did, and I stated so; two, three, or four.

8352. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] You reside in Donegal, do you not?—I do, and I think the distance from the town of Donegal to Bunbeg is 60 English miles.

8353. Is Gweedore within your district?—It is within my district.

8354. You have been stationed at Donegal, you say, since 1852?—Yes.

8355. Were you in the habit of going there often?—Yes, once a fortnight; and since these occurrences took place, considerably oftener. Since the last outrage in December 1856, I received a letter from the Under Secretary, directing me to be at Gweedore as much as possible; as much as my other duties permitted; and I have sometimes been there for weeks together, making my head quarters at the hotel, as I was ordered.

8356. Did you go into any of the houses of the people before the month of June 1858?—I am not aware that I did; I went into some of the houses at the time the police-tax was levied.

8357. What time was that?—The summer of 1857, I think.

8358. Have you any recollection of the houses that you did go into in the summer of 1857?—They were just the same as the last time I saw them.

8359. How many houses did you go into in the summer of 1857?—I could not tell; I was in command of a large police force; my duty was to protect the men in levying the tax.

8360. You had no particular occasion to make inquiries at all?—Not the least in the world; I had only to protect the men.

8361. You had no particular occasion at that time to examine into their condition?—Of course not.

8362. Were you in any of their houses between that period and the 15th or 16th of June 1858 that you remember particularly?—No, not that I remember particularly; I do not remember that I was. I do not think that there was anything to bring me there.

8363. You had no opportunity of knowing what food they were using between November and June?—No; I do not think that I ever went out with the police to see warrants of that kind executed in that district but once, and that was on a special information with regard to smuggled tobacco.

8364. You went into 144 houses?—Yes, I did, on Lord George Hill's estate.

8365. Did you find any sea-weed in any of the houses?—Yes, one house, where I saw a woman eating it; that one house, where I found inside a thing that they call dillosk; that was the only house in which I saw it.

8366. Do you know what is commonly called dollamaun?—I do not; people have described it to me, but I do know it; it is a sort of sea-weed.

8367. Did

8367. Did you find it in any of the houses?—No, it was this dillosk, and it appeared to me to have been washed; it was in a small basket-work thing in the room, as if it was drying. *D. J. Cruice, Esq.* 2 July 1858.

8368. Was not this always rather a poor district?—I consider so.

8369. Was it as poor as Erris, where you have been?—They have more cattle, but their houses appear worse; they have more wretchedness about their houses than where I ever was.

8370. With that exception you think it nearly approached the state of things at Erris?—Yes, but not worse. The people of Erris have more idea of comfort; the people of Gweedore have less idea of comfort than any people I ever saw.

8371. You said that the people suffered severely from the levy of the police and sheep tax?—I think they should do so, and so convinced was I of that, and so anxious, that I even came to Dublin to the Lord Lieutenant and waited upon him, to see if anything could be done to assist them when the sheep tax was to be levied, and to see if the 800*l.* police tax already levied would be allowed to go to the payment of the sheep tax, and upon certain conditions I think that would be done.

8372. Are you of opinion that the levy was disproportioned to the means of the people?—Yes, so large a levy would be disproportioned to the means of any people.

8373. It was 2,400*l.* altogether, was it not?—Yes, and it was levied at a period of the year when they paid all the rents besides; I was astonished how they did it, and there was not a single beast sold belonging to the people for the police or the sheep tax. I went down to the people and they came to me at the petty sessions when the levy was going to be made, and that wished me not to bring the police again; I said, "That depends upon yourselves; I have got a warrant; if you obey the law and pay the money, I will be the best judge." Next day I came down, and I found that in a short period they had paid 500*l.* I said, "If you continue in that kind of way, as long as you will behave so I will not bring the police down upon you."

8374. Would not the levy of so large a sum as 2,400*l.*, with the addition of the payment of the rent, have considerably reduced their means of living?—To that extent, of course it did; it took so much of their means. They are as well disposed and as quiet a people as ever I knew in my life, and as easily managed, and if left to themselves I do think that there are not a more peaceable people in the world, or more obedient.

8375. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did the taking away of the mountains make them more peaceable?—I do not know anything about the mountains being taken away; it was many years back; I could not now remember.

8376. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You do not know that they were taken away?—I know that the Scotchman took them, but I did not know that the people had them; I heard it argued that Lord George Hill took so much mountain and set the rest.

8377. The petition of the 17th of June which you saw, was a petition to Parliament, was it not?—Yes, one was a petition to Parliament.

8378. Was that the second petition?—Not to Parliament, but I think it was to the Lord Lieutenant; that is my impression.

8379. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Does the bishop live at Donegal or Lifford?—No, at a place called Ramullen; it is at a great distance on Lough Swilley.

Mr. *William Young*, called in; and Examined.

8380. Lord *Naas.*] HOW long have you been in the constabulary?—Fifteen years. Mr. *W. Young.*

8381. How long have you been Head Constable?—Two years.

8382. What district have you been stationed in?—Nearly all the time in the Gweedore district.

8383. Have you heard Mr. Cruice read the return of the number of outrages that have been committed in the Gweedore district?—Yes.

8384. Was that return made by you?—It was.

8385. Is it correct?—It is correct.

8386. When those outrages were reported to you did you take steps to discover the remains of the sheep?—Immediate steps, always with a large force of constabulary.

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constabulary. On the 15th of April 1857, while searching with a number of the constabulary, I found in one bog-hole five skins, some of them with the wool nearly pulled off, and sunk to the bottom of the hole with large stones rolled in them. In another bog-hole near the same place I found three sheep skins rolled in a similar way and sunk to the bottom.

8387. Were they identified?—They were identified as the property of Mr. Huggup.

8388. Did you find any more than 20 sheep?—On the 20th of April I found 18 sheeps' heads cut across behind the ears, and buried with seven skins, with stones rolled in them, about nine feet deep in a very large bog-hole; those were particularly well concealed. The day was warm and it would have escaped notice, only I saw the flies buzzing about the edge of the hole, and it attracted my attention, and I hooked them up with a crooked stick; and we found them lying at a depth of nine feet.

8389. Were they identified?—The heads were identified as the property of Mr. Hunter and Mr. Huggup; the 14 heads had the letters "W. H." branded on the horns.

8390. On the 22d of April, what did you find?—On the 22d of April I found two sheep skins and entrails concealed under the ground, and they could not be identified they were so much decomposed.

8391. What did you find on the 24th of April?—On the 24th of April I found two sheep skins in a hole and some entrails; they could not be identified.

8392. On the 28th of April, what did you find?—On the 28th of April I found the carcasses of two sheep on the mountains, lying on the mountain with the whole skins and flesh on, and their skulls broken in, and a number of tracks about the place where they had been apparently running after the sheep.

8393. You found other remains on different other occasions?—On other occasions I found other remains; I found a sheep with its head cut off lying on the mountain; another with its ribs broken on the mountain, and almost dead; and various other things I found; I found a number of holes with bones and entrails, and everything of that kind in them, so much decomposed that they could not be identified, nor could we calculate the number of sheep that had been put into them.

8394. Did the other members of the constabulary find a number of carcasses?—Various numbers; Mr. Cruice found sheep with the legs tied together on the mountain; others were found by the police in the bog-holes and in lakes.

8395. Was a diligent search made by the police in each case?—A diligent search was made by the police in each case, and continued for many days. There was very great difficulty in discovering them; in many cases it was a considerable time after the outrage had been committed before we could get the remains. After the first two or three outrages they took better means of concealing them, after they found out that we succeeded in getting them.

8396. Will you state to the Committee the circumstances of the outrage upon the shepherd Lillicoe's house?—It was the 10th of December 1856; I have it only from the police report.

8397. Who made that report?—It was the constable in the adjoining station; I have not it here.

8398. The house was attacked, was it not?—Yes, the house was attacked; I saw the sworn information, and every particular about it.

8399. With regard to the attack on Cowan's house, did you see that house?—I did.

8400. Will you state the circumstances of that attack; who was Cowan?—He was shepherd to Mr. Huggup.

8401. When did it take place?—It took place on the 6th of March 1857; an armed party attacked his house in the middle of the night; they broke open his door, and robbed him of his firearms and some of his furniture, and took away provisions; and the same night a house, the property of Lord George Hill, which was then being built for the use of the shepherd, and the police station, was also demolished. The roof was broken in, the walls tossed, and everything about it destroyed.

8402. Was Cowan threatened upon that occasion?—He was ordered to go out of the country, and also his employer; if not they would return and have his life.

8403. Have you the whole number of outrages that were committed?—Yes.

8404. The first outrage on the sheep took place on the 3d of February 1857, and the last one on the 23d of April 1858?—Yes.

8405. How many hundred head of sheep were reported as being killed in this district?—About 1,200 perhaps; I have heard that there were 80 sheep reported as being lost, and informations sworn in the case, but the owner of them, after he had left the country, would not come back to claim compensation for them, it was Mr. Huggup; he sold his sheep at a reduced price to Mr. Hunter, his successor, and he would not come back from England to claim the price of them; he lost 80 sheep that were never claimed for.

8406. You collected, I believe, the police tax that was levied by Government, and the sheep tax that was collected by order of the grand jury?—I did.

8407. What was the amount of the sums you collected?—Something better than 2,000 *l.*

8408. In what period of time did you collect that sum?—I commenced to collect the police tax on the 25th of August 1857, and I had the sheep tax all collected in February 1858.

8409. Did Mr. Cruice attend with a large force of police in the first instance?—Yes, he did.

8410. Did the people show any opposition?—They did, in the first instance. We had to drive a large number of cattle to the pound; but after a short time they paid the money freely, with very few exceptions.

8411. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Without your being obliged to sell the cattle?—Without our being obliged to sell any of the cattle.

8412. Lord *Naas.*] Were any of Mr. Doherty's cattle seized?—Yes; I seized a cow of his.

8413. Was the tax paid on that cow afterwards?—It was; I had to break open his cow-house door; we had his cow, and we went with her to the pound, and the tax was paid.

8414. Did the people afterwards pay the money, with few exceptions, freely?—They did.

8415. Was any property seized except cattle?—None for the police tax; I did make a seizure of some oat stacks; but they afterwards paid the money. I knew that they had the money, and immediately after I seized on the oats they paid the amount; but I never auctioned any of it.

8416. There was no property, either cattle or otherwise, sold?—None.

8417. The whole amount was collected, with the exception of a few shillings, was it not?—The whole amount of the police tax was collected, except a few shillings; of the sheep tax and county cess there are 13 *l.* uncollected.

8418. Did the people show any want of money?—None; they seemed to have plenty of money.

8419. Was it in notes or sovereigns that the money was paid?—The greater part was in notes; 5 *l.*, 10 *l.*, and 20 *l.* notes; in some instances, in nearly all the cases, I had to give back change in silver.

8420. Was there a 5 *l.* note paid in mistake?—There was one man paid a 5 *l.* note in mistake for 1 *l.*, and did not detect it for three weeks.

8421. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] What was his name?—His name was Paddy Ferry, of Meenacladdy, a tenant of Mr. Woodhouse.

8422. Is he on the relief list?—He is.

8423. Lord *Naas.*] Do you think that the people of this district paid the amount of the police tax from money which they had in their hands, and which they had got from work in Scotland?—I consider that they paid the whole of the amount, both of the police tax and the sheep tax, from money that they earned in Scotland last year, and from butter that they made last summer.

8424. Take the townland of Ardnagappery or Middletown, how was it in that respect there?—It is considered the poorest in the Gweedore district, and to my own knowledge the men and boys of that townland brought at least 100 *l.* from Scotland for their work last harvest, which would amount to within a couple of pounds to the amount of the sheep and police tax for that townland.

8425. Were there a great many who did not go to Scotland?—Numbers did not go to Scotland; they were always employed at home, burning kelp, and various other things; a number of the men made three times the amount they paid for taxes.

8426. Do many of them fish?—Not many.

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8427. Do they catch lobsters?—They fish for lobsters; but not many, except those on the islands.

8428. How much money was received for kelp and lobsters last year in the district, as well as you can reckon?—I should say at least 2,000 *l.*, taking the whole district.

8429. Do you consider that the greater portion of that sum was for kelp?—The greater part; I do not suppose there was more than 50 *l.* or 60 *l.* for fish; one lobster boat came round the district nearly every month in the summer, but only one.

8430. Do you conceive from the appearance of the people that there was much destitution among them?—I consider there is no destitution whatever.

8431. Was the potato crop last year good?—It was better than ever I have seen it in Gweedore since the famine year.

8432. Was there any failure there?—Very little.

8433. Had the people, throughout the winter, potatoes stored in quantities in their houses?—They had in nearly every house, and outside in the fields, which I hardly ever saw in Gweedore before; and they had them in the fields up to the month of March or April.

8434. What are potatoes selling for?—I never paid more than 3 *d.* a stone all last winter.

8435. What kind of crop had they last year?—Very good.

8436. How long have you known the people of this district?—I have known them since January 1844.

8437. Do you think they have as many cattle and as much provisions as they have had at any period during the time that you have known them?—I consider that they never had more cattle than they have at present.

8438. With regard to their clothing, do you think they are as well clothed now as they have been since you have known them?—They are better clothed than ever I knew them; they are more fashionably clothed for the last two or three years than I have ever known them before.

8439. Is their bedding generally good?—Their bedding is not so good as their other circumstances; they are not in the habit of keeping good bedding; but I know many instances where they are able enough to purchase good bedding, but they have very bad bedding.

8440. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Is the bedding as good this year as ever it was?—Yes, and better.

8441. Lord *Naas.*] Do you observe a change in the feelings of the people towards their landlords and employers lately?—A very general feeling for the worse seems to have been stirred up.

8442. To what do you attribute that?—I attribute that to the part which the Roman-catholic clergymen of the district are taking in the affairs of the landlords.

8443. You think that if the people were left to themselves they would be peaceable and well conducted?—I consider that they would; I consider that if they were not badly advised they would be well conducted; they are a warm-hearted, good-natured people, and I have ever found them so.

8444. Did you witness any of the distributions of relief in Gweedore?—I was not immediately present, but I saw them in many cases carrying it home.

8445. Did you see the people going to receive this relief?—Yes.

8446. In what state were they?—I saw plenty of them go to it very badly clad and almost naked, and I know some parties that had good warm clothing at home at the time.

8447. Did you see them going barefooted through the snow to get relief?—I did, but I believe that those who did go barefooted through the snow had shoes at home.

8448. Did you observe that many visitors, such as clergymen and newspaper reporters, had been going round this district lately?—A very great number on various occasions.

8449. Do you think that the people showed any disposition to conceal their real state from those visitors?—In many cases; I went into many houses that were not in their usual state at all, and which presented an appearance of greater poverty than they usually did. I know that one man put his cow away from his house when he knew that the reporters were coming. He had good shoes, but he appeared

appeared barefooted, and he had potatoes, which he sold afterwards. He was described as having none at all, except a few under a bed in the kitchen.

8450. Mr. *Dobbs.*] What was his name?—Owen Gallagher.

8451. Lord *Naas.*] Did you often talk to the people about the distribution of relief?—Often I talked to the people about the distribution of relief; some of them said they would rather it had never come at all; they lost more time in looking for it than it was worth to them.

8452. Who was this distribution generally administered by?—The Rev. Mr. Doherty and the Rev. Mr. M'Gee were the principal parties conducting it; but it was the country people that they had employed under them. Mr. M'Gee principally conducted the business, who was a stranger in the district, and did not know anything about the people.

8453. Did you hear discontent expressed among the people about the conduct of the distribution?—Many of them complained to myself, and they even wished that I had the distribution of it, and asked if I would not get anything to do with it, as I would give it more fairly than the others. It was reported that they gave it to their friends, and not to those who were really in need.

8454. Was it supposed that there was any difference made between those who paid the police and sheep-tax and those who paid none?—At first there was none given but to those who paid those taxes; but after this Committee was ordered, they gave it out generally. There were three or four people that did not get it. Lord George Hill's bailiff did not get any, and others that took new cuts from Lord George Hill did not get it in the second instance.

8455. From your knowledge of the distribution of this relief, do you think that it was invariably given, in the first instance, to the poorest people in the district?—It was not given, in the first instance, to the poorest people in the district; none got it but those who paid the taxes at first.

8456. Did the people mention this circumstance to you?—They did.

8457. And did they express their dissatisfaction at it?—They often did; the poor people often complained to me of not getting it.

8458. You accompanied Mr. Cruice, did you not?—I did in every case.

8459. Did you find that there was a general indisposition on the part of the people to let you see what they possessed in the way of cattle?—They did everything in their power to prevent letting us see their real state; some of them concealed their bed-clothes outside; some in lofts, as described by Mr. Cruice; in other instances, which he did not describe, I found bed-clothes behind the houses, and in the rocks, and in many cases the houses were locked, and they would not let us into them.

8460. Before this system began, did you ever find any indisposition on the part of the people to allow you to go into their houses?—Not at all; they were always quite civil and agreeable.

8461. Is the manner of the people very much changed?—Very much changed for the worse.

8462. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Are you acquainted with the townlands of Glashagh and Brinlack, Mr. Nixon's property?—I am intimately acquainted with them.

8463. They have been represented as specially poor; can you give any information about them to the Committee?—They are not at all poor; Brinlack, in particular, is as well as any townland in the whole district.

8464. Have you been through the houses lately?—I have been through their houses on several occasions lately; I know every house in the district, and I know the circumstances of nearly every house and family.

8465. Are there many of those who have received relief, that are also in possession of cattle?—They have all cattle in every townland, with very few exceptions; there is scarcely an inhabitant in the whole district that has not cattle.

8466. Which of the townlands paid the tax for the cows' tails when it was levied?—Brinlack is double as large as Glashagh, and paid very nearly twice as much tax; but I find, from information that I received, that Glashagh got as much money as Brinlack; so that, in fact, Glashagh, where the tails were cut off, got a double portion.

8467. Sir *William Somerville.*] How are the people in those districts of Glashagh and Brinlack situated as regards provisions; are they very well off?—I have often been in the houses, in Brinlack especially, and I saw people taking away potatoes in boats to sell to another adjoining island, and in Brinlack they

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they have always had better crops than in the other districts. In Glashagh they make large quantities of kelp, and they are in very good circumstances.

8468. Do they use much sea-weed?—I have been through the place at all hours of day and night, and meal hours, and I never saw a family use sea-weed in Gweedore this year, except two, one of those had milk and butter on the table, the other had stirabout cooked.

8469. In these two townlands, it has been stated to this Committee that sea-weed enters substantially into their dietage, and that without this sea-weed they would have suffered extreme hunger, and perhaps death?—I have been frequently in the houses in these townlands for the last 12 months at meal hours, and I never saw them use sea-weed even in one instance. I see it has been described that sea-weed is mixed with potatoes and meal; but I do not think it was for food that it was mixed; any that use it, use it separately; they eat the sea-weed with the potatoes as a relish, the same as I would eat meat; but I never saw them mix it as has been described here. I do not think that it was said that they saw the people use it as food,

8470. You think they had quite sufficient without sea-weed?—They had plenty without sea-weed.

8471. What do they use?—Principally potatoes and meal.

8472. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] It has been mentioned here, that you seized one Biddy M'Bride's cattle on Sunday; did you, or did you not?—I did. I seized the cattle on the lands of Biddy M'Bride for police-tax on a Sunday. I could not get them on any other day; they brought them there on a Sunday morning, and kept them there during the whole day, and they would not be there again for the following week; and as the police-tax was a Crown debt, I considered I was justified under the circumstances in seizing them for it.

8473. Lord *Naas.*] It was stated that the cattle were detained in two instances, after the owners paid their tax, for the taxes of others; and it was stated that Paddy O'Donnell and Manus Gallagher had their cattle detained for the tax of a man named Friel; will you state to the Committee the circumstances of that case?—O'Donnell's cattle and Gallagher's were only seized for their own tax, and only kept for their own tax, and after paying it their cattle were given to them. That man Friel's tax was not paid for a month after O'Donnell's and Gallagher's; and on one occasion, for Friel's tax I seized a horse that was tethered on his land; and on my way to the pound with the horse, the owner came and paid the money, and we lifted a collection, and I myself subscribed 6 *d.* to the price of it; that was a month after O'Donnell's and Gallagher's cattle were seized, and a month after the tax was paid by them.

8474. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] In making those seizures, is it true that you seized potatoes and corn in the people's houses?—I seized them in what we call in Ireland marked potato pits, but not in the houses; and I seized some oat-stacks outside: but I knew that the parties had the money, and they paid me immediately after; nothing whatever was sold.

8475. Something has been said about a road through Glashagh and Brinlack; was that road ever lockspitted and marked out by Mr. Penfold, the Government surveyor?—I know that there is a road marked out, but I never knew that it was marked out by Government. I heard that it was marked out by Mr. Doherty.

8476. Lord *Naas.*] Do you know when the subscriptions to this relief began first to be received?—No, not exactly.

8477. Do you know the date of the meeting?—The date of the meeting was the 18th of January, and that is the date of the appeal.

8478. When was the distribution of the relief begun first?—On the 8th of March 1858.

8479. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] So that from the date of the appeal to the 8th of March those people, who were reported to be starving, got no relief?—No, none; and even on the 8th of March they got nothing but clothing, and then only a few; they did not get meal for a considerable time after that.

8480. Lord *Naas.*] When did they get meal?—I do not know.

8481. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Was your conduct approved of by Lord Carlisle in those transactions?—It was; at Christmas last Lord Carlisle was kind enough to send me a reward of 25 *l.*

8482. Was that on approbation of your services?—Yes, in approbation of my services in collecting the taxes.

8483. Lord

8483. Lord *Naas.*] Were you in the district when Mr. Sharman Crawford paid it a visit?—I was.

8484. Was he expected in the district?—He was; because I heard a few days before that he was to be there.

8485. Did you present yourself in any way to enable him to communicate with you?—I put myself in his way on two occasions.

8486. Did he enter into any communication with you?—He scarcely ever looked at me; I saw him the greater part of the way from Mr. M'Gee's house to Bunbeg, and he was sitting on the car the whole of the way, except on one occasion, when he got off, and I saw Mr. M'Fadden direct him to a pound, where there were some cattle in it; he got off, looked at the pound, and got up on the car again, and went away; I did not see him go into a house at all.

8487. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Did you speak to him at all?—No.

8488. Did you tell him that you were the person who was the collector of taxes?—No; I left myself so that he might speak to me if he thought proper; but I had no anxiety to speak to him at all.

8489. Mr. *P. Wykeham Martin.*] We have been told something about an attack upon the pound; in the case of Mr. Hanson, who had cattle seized for trespass, were they released from the pound, or did the pound-keeper let them loose?—These were cattle put into the pound on the 8th of October 1851. and James M'Bride, the pound-keeper was fined 5 *l.* by the magistrates at the Bunbeg petty sessions, for handing over the trespass money on the lands of Mr. Hanson to Mr. Doherty; Mr. Doherty would not allow him to give the trespass money to Mr. Hanson's man, but he took it, and said he would give it back to the people who paid it. James M'Bride was fined 5 *l.* for breach of the Pound Act, and I executed the warrant upon him; he asked me to give him a receipt for it, and he told me that Mr. Doherty was to pay him back a part of the fine.

8490. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] You said that you had to break open Mr. Doherty's cow-house to seize a cow; was he at home?—He was not; at least his sister told me that he was not at home.

8491. Did they ask you to wait till he came back?—I told them that I would wait if they would get the money, but they said that they would not pay the money, and that I might do my duty.

8492. Did they tell you when he would come back?—No; and they did not tell me where he was.

8493. Did they say that he was at Letterkenny?—I do not recollect.

8494. You would not say that they did not?—They may have told me that, but I do not recollect; they told me that he was not at home, and that they would not pay the money; I said that if they would promise to pay me at any time before night, I would take their word for it; but they would not, and then I broke the door.

8495. Mr. *Maguire.*] Did you throw yourself in the way of the reporter of the "Dublin Evening Post," or did you refuse to go with him, in fact, to any of the houses?—The reporter of the "Dublin Evening Post," I think it was Mr. Williams, called one day; I was in my own room and I asked him up-stairs, and he said he wanted me to go through the district with him; but I said that I could not; that my services could not be required for the benefit of a newspaper. He said that he had seen a part of the district, and he wished me to show him more of it; I knew that he had been with Mr. Doherty and Mr. M'Fadden, I think the day previous, and, of course, I would not go with him; I told him that he had seen the worst of it.

8496. Did you go with the reporter of the "Londonderry Journal"?—No, never; I travelled the road with him.

8497. Mr. Gallagher, I think, is the poor-rate collector, or cess collector, or something of that kind?—There is a man named Gallagher, the Cloughaneely cess collector.

8498. Do you know him?—I do.

8499. Is he an inhabitant there?—He is.

8500. Does he know the district very well?—He does not know all of Gweedore, but he does know Cloughaneely.

8501. Is he here?—He was examined here, I heard, but I did not see him.

8502. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Did Mr. Williams express any opinion to you after having seen any part of the people's house?—He said that he was misled by the priests; he said that he thought from the reports that there was destitution

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tution to an enormous extent, but when he came down and found what I told him, and everything connected with it, he said that he had been misled, and that he would go back to Dublin and say little about it.

8503. At that time he had seen some of the district?—At that time he had been with the Rev. Mr. Doherty the day previous.

8504. And he went back again to Dublin?—Yes.

8505. Mr. *Maguire.*] He came to you, did he not, to get the other side of the picture?—He said so.

8506. Had you any reason to doubt his word?—I think he was sent to me for a purpose.

8507. Why did not you give him an opportunity of looking at the bright side of things in the district?—Because I considered that it would not be right for me; it was no part of my duty whatever.

8508. From the statements you made to Mr. Williams, he then said he had been deceived?—He told me he considered that he was greatly deceived.

8509. Had you after that any conversations with him?—I had a conversation with him in my own room. I told him that he had seen the worst of it.

8510. After that, he then said that he had been deceived by the priests?—He said that he had been deceived by the priests, and that he would go back to Dublin.

8511. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Do you mean to say that he said he was deceived by the priests, in consequence of your representation to him?—I told him the particulars, and I also said that he was deceived, and that if he saw something like destitution it was not real destitution. In one case I knew him go into the house of a man named Billy Coll, and he said that he found the man sitting with his family round a basket of small potatoes the size of jack stones: that man I knew to have plenty of large potatoes for sale, and I knew him to be a cattle dealer, and to have a horse and cattle, and go to the neighbouring markets to buy and sell cattle. He described that man as being in destitution, and I knew to the contrary, and when I told him this and similar cases, he considered that he was led astray.

8512. You told Mr. Williams about that, did you?—Yes, I did.

8513. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] There were other cases mentioned by him as destitute, that you yourself knew were not destitute?—He mentioned numerous cases that I knew could not be in destitution without my knowledge.

8514. Lord *Naas.*] Could there be any amount of destitution or extreme wretchedness in the district without your knowing it?—None whatever. I am thoroughly acquainted with every corner of it, every house, and every family.

8515. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Was there any starvation there last year?—Not a bit. They were better than I had seen them since 1844.

8516. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] When you came away, you say the potatoes were selling at 3 *d.* a stone?—Yes; I never paid more than 3 *d.* a stone in Gweedore this season, and I saw rooms full of them a few days before I came away.

8517. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Were the people in as good health this year as usual?—I never saw them better; there is no sickness.

8518. Mr. *Maguire.*] Are the houses generally of one room?—One room and a kitchen.

8519. Are there many instances of only one room in a house?—Not many instances. When they build a new house, they sometimes only build a kitchen in one year, and in the next year they build a room.

8520. Lord *Naas.*] They generally keep cattle in the kitchen, do they not?—Yes, on nearly all occasions; we cannot get them out of that practice; they said that they thrive better with the heat. We prosecuted them under the Nuisances Removal Act, but it has been of very little use.

8521. *Chairman.*] When you were searching in this district about those sheep that were destroyed, did you ever find any sheep, or parts of them, or the wool of them, in any of the people's houses?—There was wool found in one house, but not by me, and the man was prosecuted for having a quantity of wool in his house which was proved to be the property of a Scotchman.

8522. Was that man in the Gweedore district?—He was in the Gweedore district.

8523. Mr. *Maguire.*] Was not he acquitted?—He was found guilty, but he appealed against the decision; there was a question of law raised, and he got the benefit of the doubt.

8524. *Chairman.*]

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8524. *Chairman.*] You did not see any of the remains of the sheep in any of the houses?—No, I did not expect to see them; they concealed them too well outside.

8525. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] The indictment was for the man having a fleece?—The indictment was for the man having a fleece, and it turned out to be wool.

8526. Mr. *Dobbs.*] It was the wool of different sheep, was it not?—Yes, of different sheep.

8527. Lord *Naas.*] Did not you state that you found the wool buried in bags on the mountain?—I never found the wool separately; I found it on the skins.

8528. Did you find the skins buried?—I found them frequently sunken in deep holes, with stones rolled in them.

Richard Hamilton, Esq., called in; and Examined.

R. Hamilton, Esq.

8529. Lord *Naas.*] WHAT is your position?—I am a Poor-law Inspector.

8530. How long have you held that office?—Eleven years.

8531. How long have you been employed in the relief service?—Thirteen years.

8532. In what capacity did you act at first in the Relief Commission?—I was Secretary to the Commission of which Sir John Burgoyne was the chairman; the last Relief Commission.

8533. When were you first employed as a Poor-law Inspector?—In November 1847; I was sent as Poor-law Inspector to the county of Mayo.

8534. How long did you remain there?—About four years.

8535. You were then removed to another district, were you not?—Yes, a district in the west of the county of Cork, including the unions of Skull and Skibbereen.

8536. How long did you stay there?—About three years, I think.

8537. When were you placed in charge of the North-west district?—In 1855.

8538. How many unions does it include?—There are 19 in the district.

8539. In what counties are they?—In the counties of Derry, Tyrone, Fermanagh, Cavan, and Donegal.

8540. When were you instructed by the Poor-law Commissioners to make a report to them respecting the condition of the peasantry in the Gweedore and Cloughaneely district?—On the 16th of February last.

8541. When did you proceed to that district?—On the 22d I proceeded to that part of my district, to Milford, the adjoining union.

8542. Did you make inquiries at Milford Workhouse?—At Milford there was a very large attendance at the meeting of guardians, I asked if any indication of distress had been observed in that Union, the Board said no, that there was nothing of the kind; and they adopted a resolution, which was signed by each guardian present (*delivering in the same*).

8543. Did you proceed to Dunfanaghy?—The next morning I proceeded to Dunfanaghy, Tuesday the 23d.

8544. Is that the usual day of meeting of the Board of Guardians?—That is the usual day of meeting of the Board of Guardians.

8545. Did you visit the workhouse?—I went direct to the workhouse on my arrival at Dunfanaghy.

8546. Did you call the attention of the Board of Guardians to the representations that had been made of the distress in the district?—I did, after the ordinary business of the Board was over.

8547. What answer did they make?—The guardians said that there was no distress; they all stated so.

8548. Did you examine the guardians on oath?—I examined them on oath.

8549. Did you examine any officer of the workhouse?—After examining the guardians I examined the union officer, the master and the clerk (the same person holds the two offices), and then the relieving officer.

8550. What report did they make?—They reported that there was no distress; the master reported that there were no applications for relief at the workhouse, and that the Board of Guardians never refused relief.

8551. Did you call upon any one in the town of Dunfanaghy?—At Dunfanaghy I made inquiry whether there was any indication of distress there, either by

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by an increased number of beggars or by an increased demand for provisions; but I found that there was nothing of the kind.

8552. Did you call upon the Roman-catholic clergyman at Dunfanaghy?—After the Board was over I called upon the Rev. Mr. M'Monagle, the Roman-catholic curate; I inquired how many of the clergymen who had signed the appeal resided in the district, I was informed that there were but four; I got their addresses, and proceeded at once to the residence of the curate in the town of Dunfanaghy; I called upon him, and called upon the sub-inspector of police.

8553. Who are the four clergymen that reside in Dunfanaghy Union?—Here is a memorandum given me by the clerk of the union; I inquired from him the names, and he handed that document to me (*producing the same*).

8554. You did not find that gentleman at home?—He (the curate) was not at home.

8555. Did you call upon the sub-inspector of police?—I called upon him and he was not at home.

8556. Did you make any inquiry relative to the extent of distress from any other parties in Dunfanaghy?—I did from different individuals; I inquired at the hotel, and from the people of the town, as to whether they had observed any increase in the number of beggars, I found there was nothing of the kind.

8557. From Dunfanaghy where did you go?—I took Gallagher, the poor-rate collector, with me from Dunfanaghy to Gweedore. I proceeded first to Crossroads. There I called upon the Rev. Messrs. M'Fadden, who live close to that town; I did not find either of them at home. I then called upon the head constable of police at the Crossroads barracks. His name is Thompson. I asked him if he had observed any distress in the district, he stated that there was nothing of the kind. He refused to give me evidence upon oath, because he said he could not give it without an order from his officer.

8558. What did he state to you was the general condition of the peasantry?—He stated, in very positive terms, that they were as well off as he ever recollected them, and that there were no grounds whatever for the representations of distress.

8559. On your way from Crossroads to Gweedore did you meet another gentleman?—I first met Mr. Brougham, who is the Protestant rector of the parish. I asked him if he had observed any unusual distress in the parish, he said that there was nothing of the kind, and that the condition of the people was as good as it had been of late years, if not better. Afterwards I met the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden. I stopped him, introduced myself to him, and told him the object of my visit to the district. I asked him to point out to me the localities in which I should find the greatest amount of destitution. He said that it was general.

8560. To what did he attribute that?—He attributed it to excessive taxation and increased rents.

8561. Did you ask him for any particular evidence upon the subject?—He stated to me that he could give no evidence beyond what was given in the appeal which he had signed; I asked him whether he could swear to the facts stated in that appeal, and he said he could not swear to those facts.

8562. Mr. *Dobbs*.] Did he refuse to make a statement upon oath?—No, he did not refuse to make a statement on oath. It was on the road I met him, and I said I was anxious to get particulars of where I should find the destitution. My object in calling upon the Roman Catholic clergymen was to get the data of the destitution, the names of the townlands where I should find it. Mr. M'Fadden said that he could not swear to the facts stated in the appeal.

8563. Lord *Naas*.] Did you tell Mr. M'Fadden that you would revisit him?—I said I was returning on the following Thursday by Crossroads, and that I would call upon him for the purpose of getting further information.

8564. Did you do so?—No, I did not do so.

8565. Why did you not?—Because I found that no extra taxes had been levied upon the Crossroads district, and I did not think it necessary to return that way, and I returned by the Dunlewey road instead; my object in returning by Crossroads was principally to get the evidence of the head constable of police there.

8566. Were you told that there were any persons waiting to meet you or see you on that occasion?—No, when I found that there was no occasion for my returning

returning by Crossroads, I wrote to Mr. M'Fadden to say that I did not see any necessity for my returning that way.

8567. You then proceeded, did you not, to Gweedore; did you make any inquiries that day on your road?—I had the rate collector with me, and I asked him the particulars respecting the tenantry of each district as I passed through it, and he told me that there was no distress whatever amongst the people.

8568. You arrived that night at the Gweedore hotel, did you not?—I arrived at the Gweedore hotel that night.

8569. On Wednesday the 24th of February, did you proceed to make a more minute inspection of the neighbourhood?—I left the Gweedore hotel about six o'clock in the morning accompanied by the collector, for the purpose of making a personal inspection of the cabins of the people, and I went to what was described to me as being the most destitute part of the district.

8569*. What townlands did you visit?—I will give in my report; I visited Ardnagappery, Magheraclogher, Magheragallen, Derrybeg, Stranacorcragh, Lunniagh, Carrick, Stramakilmartin, Bunbeg, Knockastoller, Dore, Arduns, and Meenderrygamph.

8570. Have you a map of that district?—I have.

8571. Will you show the Committee the course you took upon that map?—(*The Witness described the same*).

8572. *Chairman.*] How long were you on that tour?—I started about six in the morning, and I think I got back to the hotel between two and three o'clock.

8573. Lord *Naas.*] Did you call at Derrybeg?—I called at Derrybeg, at the police barracks.

8574. Who accompanied you on your way through the villages?—The head constable Young accompanied me, and the collector, Gallagher.

8575. Did you call upon the Reverend Mr. M'Gee?—I called upon the Reverend Mr. M'Gee at Derrybeg; the last clergyman of those whose names were given to me.

8576. Did you see him?—No, he was not at home. At Bunbeg I inquired of the coast-guard if they had observed any unusual distress there, and I was told there was nothing of the kind.

8577. Did you visit the houses as you went along in the Meenaclady division? It was the Magheraclogher division. I did not go as far as Meenaclady.

8578. Why did not you go to Meenaclady?—Because I was told that the people there were much better off than at Magheraclogher. Head constable Young told me so, and collector Gallagher, and some of the people themselves said the same.

8579. Did you see the storekeeper of Lord George Hill's store at Bunbeg?—Yes.

8580. Did he make any statement to you?—He told me that there was no demand for meal, which was a sure indication that there was no want of provisions in the hands of the people.

8581. Did he say he had a good supply of meal on hand?—Yes; he said that he had a good supply.

8582. Did the inmates of the houses, as you went along, come out of their houses generally?—I went into the poorest looking houses, and the inmates of the other houses generally came outside their doors, affording me a fair opportunity of forming an opinion as to their real condition.

8583. Did they appear to bear the appearance of persons suffering from want of food?—I only saw one case where there was the appearance of suffering from want of food.

8584. What case was that?—The case of the family of a man named Mulligan, whose children looked very wretched indeed. I found that they were not in want, but Mulligan's wife was stepmother to the children. That was near Derrybeg, and at the end of the townland.

8585. Did you go into Mulligan's house?—I did.

8586. Did you find any cattle there?—I found a horse and cow in his house.

8587. Did you find cattle in most of the houses?—In nearly all the houses I visited in the early part of the day, that is, before nine in the morning, I found cattle. I only went into the poorest looking houses; I did not go into the houses where I saw the appearance of plenty about the dwelling.

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8588. Did you ascend a piece of ground from which you could see the country?—A little after nine o'clock head constable Young drew my attention to the fact of a large number of cattle being driven out of the dwellings, and when I got on a high piece of ground, and had a view of several villages, I saw large numbers of cattle being driven out of the houses.

8589. Did you find potatoes in the houses?—I found potatoes in every house, either pitted outside the dwelling or in store inside; I also found potatoes in almost every field where that crop had grown.

8590. Were you surprised to see potatoes distant from the dwellings?—Yes.

8591. Why?—Because I was perfectly satisfied that if destitution existed, the people would not leave potatoes in exposed places.

8592. From what circumstance do you make that statement?—In the county of Mayo, at the time of the famine, as soon as the potato crop and the turnip crop were fit for food the people had always to place watchmen by night and by day to guard the crops until removed.

8593. Did you see any of the potato pits opened?—Yes, I saw some of them opened.

8594. Were the potatoes good?—They were quite sound, and keeping remarkably well.

8595. Did you ask any question of the people themselves about the potato crop?—I asked several people about the crop, and they said it was unusually abundant, they said, "but for that what would we do?"

8596. Did you hear any complaint of the potatoes not keeping?—No, I did not.

8597. Did you observe any cases of sickness among the people?—None whatever.

8598. Did you inquire about the sanitary state of the district?—I inquired about the sanitary state of the district, and I was told that it was remarkably good, and that the people were very healthy.

8599. Did you observe any sea-weed in their houses?—I did not.

8600. Did you observe any want of clothing?—I saw no adult person without sufficient clothing; I saw some children rather scantily clothed, but they had no look of starvation about them.

8601. Were the people generally as well clothed as the peasantry of the district that you were acquainted with in Mayo?—I think they were better clothed than the peasantry in Mayo; and they are quite as well clothed as the people in many other parts of Donegal.

8602. Did you visit any national schools in that district?—I visited three, and I found the attendance of the children was over what it was the year before, and the children in the school were all sufficiently clothed.

8603. Did the children in the schools generally present a healthy appearance?—Yes, and also in the villages they presented a healthy appearance, and they looked cheerful.

8604. In what state did you find the inside of the houses?—I found the inside of the houses very dirty and filthy, beyond anything I ever saw.

8605. From what did that arise?—Principally from the cattle; manure heaps were in several houses.

8606. Did you find cattle in most of the houses of the peasantry?—I found cattle in nearly every house.

8607. Did the people seem to have any furniture?—Not any beyond rude fixtures for bedsteads, a few chairs or stools, and a dresser.

8608. What was their bedding?—Very bad, principally straw; I saw a great number of them in bed.

8609. Did they seem to have bed clothes?—Yes, all of them had bed clothes.

8610. Did you see the appearance of any family having slept on the floor?—None whatever.

8611. Were the inhabitants of the cabins generally in their beds?—Many of the adults were not up before nine.

8612. From your knowledge of the people who live in districts of this sort in Ireland, do you think that the internal appearance of the houses is any criterion as to their real condition?—Certainly not, for all the houses seem to have the same appearance; those who were represented to me as being in comfortable circumstances seem to live in the same state of filth and dirt as the others.

8613. Did

8613. Did you see any of the peasantry at work upon their land?—None; I did not see a single man at work in the whole of my walk; I saw plenty of men in the houses, but I did not see any appearance of industry upon the farms at that time.

8614. Did you make any inquiry as regards that?—I made inquiry, and I was told that the people never worked during winter time; that it was not the habit of the people.

8615. Do you think that from your experience in visiting the poor in different parts of Ireland, any amount of destitution could have existed in that district without its coming under your notice upon that day?—I am quite certain that no destitution existed at the time of my visit; it was impossible it could have existed without my observing it.

8616. Were you accompanied any part of the day by any one but Head Constable Young?—A man named M'Bride followed me for some hours through the cabins.

8617. What did he represent to you?—He represented to me the distress of the people. I visited several of the houses of those he described as destitute, but in no case did I find the people in the condition he described them to be in.

8618. Did you ask him to point out to you the worst houses and cabins?—I did not, but I asked him to show me a family that were living upon sea-weed, and he told me he did not know such a family at the present time, but that there would be plenty before long.

8619. Do you conceive that the levy of this tax for the sheep and the police tax has pressed severely upon the people?—No doubt it must have pressed severely upon them.

8620. Do you think that if they had not been better off than usual they would have been unable to pay it?—I think they could not have well paid it unless they had had an abundant and a good crop of potatoes; if they had had to buy provisions in addition to paying the tax it would have pressed very severely upon them.

8621. Is it not the case that along the west coast of Donegal, during the summer months, the people have suffered frequent privations?—I believe it is a well-known fact that during the summer time the people suffer more or less severe privation between the two crops; from the time one crop of potatoes is exhausted until the next crop is available; I am told they live by buying provisions on credit.

8622. Such a state of things did not exist in February last?—No, certainly not.

8623. What is the general size of the farms?—They seemed to be very small indeed; they are narrow strips of ground.

8624. Do you think that those farms would be sufficient for the support of a family?—I should say not. I think the people must have other resources besides the produce of the land to support themselves.

8625. What do you mean by other resources besides the produce of the land?—Some of the men go to England and Scotland to earn money, and they hire out their children as farm servants, and the wages that those children earn generally go towards the support of the family. The burning of kelp affords a great deal of remunerative employment in that district, and I believe fishing also gives employment, but I do not know as to that. I am also told that knitting stockings affords employment for the females; then there is the selling of eggs, with various other ways of making out a living. In the Glenties Union, and all along the coast, the same state of things exists.

8626. Do you think that at the time you visited this district the people were aware generally that an appeal had been made to the charity of the public for their support?—I do not think they were, except the people about Derrybeg.

8627. Did they freely talk to you about their condition?—I did not talk to them. I do not understand Irish, and a great many of them do not talk English. In fact, I seldom talk to the people about their own circumstances, for my experience is that you can never get the truth from them upon that subject.

8628. Do you think, from your experience of those visits, that if it had been known that you were coming with the intention of providing relief, you would have found it difficult to judge correctly?—I am certain I should have been unable to judge.

8629. Do you think that the people of Gweedore seemed to be the same class of people that they are in Erris and Tyrawley?—I think they are the same class of people.

8630. Were you in Erris and Tyrawley when out-door relief was given there?—I was.

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8631. Did you find a great difficulty then in distinguishing the really destitute?—In the time of the famine it was found necessary to relieve almost the entire population before the destitution could be relieved; all classes applied for relief.

8632. Mr. *Dobbs.*] Were they all destitute?—I do not say that they were all destitute, but they all had to be relieved before the actual destitution could be got under. Then the lists were revised, and in the case of persons not requiring relief, their destitution was tested generally by an order to the workhouse.

8633. Have you seen an extract from the report of the inspector who was in charge of the Gweedore district in 1847?—Yes.

8634. Will you read it?—This was a report that was written of the final termination of the Temporary Relief Acts, by Mr. Scheele, the inspector of the Dunfanaghy Union; and he states, "The effects of last season have proved that indolence and want of exertion of the labouring classes are amongst the greatest evils here. It would be highly desirable to grant the Board of Guardians power to require labour for the most trifling out-door relief. Any gratuitous relief is ill suited to the population, who are naturally averse to regular industry. No scheme was left untried to make themselves appear destitute, so as to entitle them to a daily quart of soup. They say, 'We are all poor, and may as well get a share of what is going.'"

8635. On Thursday, the 25th, you visited another division, did you not?—On Thursday, the 25th, I visited Dunleary division, and I left the district that day.

8636. Did you go into a house along with Captain Dyer?—I went into the house of a person that he described to me as the most destitute-looking family he had seen. I found in that house a family of nine persons; the man confessed to me that he had five large pits of potatoes, one good stack of corn, three cows, and a horse.

8637. Did he say what his rent was?—He said it was about 1*l.* or 1*l.* 10*s.* a year. He was a tenant of Mr. Olphert.

8638. Did he say that his holding was much dearer than the holdings on Lord Hill's estate?—He did. I expressed surprise at finding so much provisions with him at so small a rent, and I said he must be much better off than the tenantry on other estates; he said he was not, for his holding was quite as high if not higher than others.

8639. Had you heard that there had been any robbery of provisions in this district?—No.

8640. Was that a common thing in Erris during the famine?—In that district provisions could not be left out at all during the famine; vessels laden with provisions had to be protected; they were in the habit of going in small curraghs, 60 or 70 at a time, and attacking provision vessels as they passed along the coast. Government had to send steamers, and every vessel that passed had to be protected by marines on board. Several lives were lost at that time, and no carrier would undertake to bring a load of provisions into the country without an escort of soldiers.

8641. Was there much disease in that district?—Yes, there was; disease was prevalent generally during the whole time.

8642. Can you describe the general appearance of the people in that district?—The people there during that time had ulcerated and swelled limbs; dysentery prevailed, and the children looked wretched in the extreme.

8643. No such appearance presented itself, I presume, in Gweedore last February?—No, nothing of the kind.

8644. In making inquiries into the circumstances of the people do you generally go to the constabulary?—I always go to the constabulary; I make it a point to go to the constabulary for information.

8645. Do you think that the statements you receive from them are correct?—Always most satisfactory; they have opportunities in taking the census, of making themselves acquainted with the condition of the people.

8646. Did you examine witnesses at the Gweedore Hotel?—I examined several witnesses at the Gweedore Hotel; I examined Mr. Cruice, the sub-inspector of police, and I examined the county inspector, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Robertson (Lord George Hill's agriculturist), Head Constable Young, Collector Gallagher, and also Captain Dyer.

8647. Did they generally confirm the observations that you yourself had made?—They did fully confirm them; they represented that no distress at all existed in the district, and that the people were better off than they had been for some years past.

8648. You attended the Letterkenny Board of Guardians, did you not?—I left the district on the Thursday, and on the following Friday I attended the Letterkenny Board, and I asked whether there were any indications of distress in that union, and the Board adopted a resolution, which I can hand in.

8649. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy.*] Is any part of this district within the Letterkenny Union?—It is the adjoining union on one side; the Milford Union adjoins Dunfanaghy on the one side, and Letterkenny on the other side; all Gweedore is in the Dunfanaghy Union. If distress had existed at Gweedore, some indications of it would have been observed in the adjoining unions.

8650. Lord *Naas.*] Did you attend a meeting of the Dunfanaghy Board of Guardians in May last?—I did.

8651. Did you call their attention to their resolution of the 16th of February?—I did.

8652. What course did you adopt to take the opinion of the Board of Guardians on the state of the country?—There was a very large number of guardians present, and as I heard it stated that the whole Board of Guardians did not concur in the former resolution, I therefore called their attention to it; I suggested to the chairman to put certain questions; first, "Have you observed any indications of unusual distress in your neighbourhood during the past winter?" that was the first question. The question was put to each individual guardian, and the guardians unanimously and severally stated that they had not.

8653. Were nearly all the guardians present upon that occasion?—I think that all the elected guardians were present.

8654. Have you any return showing the rate of mortality in the Dunfanaghy Union, as compared with other parts of Ireland?—Yes; I have a return which commences with the 25th of March 1847 to the 29th of September; it is calculated by half years down to the present time, and it shows the rate of mortality in the Dunfanaghy Workhouse, as compared with all Ireland, and it shows the number of deaths which took place in each year with the number of persons relieved.

8655. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] What is the general result?—The general result, excepting for half two years, the rate of mortality in Dunfanaghy is considerably lower.

8656. Lord *Naas.*] From your experience generally of affording relief to the Irish poor, do you find that the distribution of gratuitous relief is generally injurious to the peasantry?—I find it very injurious; it always does them much harm.

8567. What is the general effect of it?—It paralyses all exertion on the part of the people themselves; if they get it this year they expect to get it the next year, and they do not make the exertion that they otherwise would.

8658. Do you think that in the famine year any real exertion was made by the people to help themselves as long as the system of out-door relief was continued?—No; I think it was only after the cessation of out-door relief that the people made any exertion.

8569. You think that the system of out-door relief in Dunfanaghy would not be attended with good results to the people?—I think it is highly injurious to the people.

8660. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] You stated that a family of the name of Mulligan seemed to be in a state of peculiar poverty: were you told any particular reason for that?—I was told that Mulligan's present wife was stepmother to the children in question; the head constable told me that the family had provisions enough, and were not in want.

8661. Lord *Naas.*] You wrote a letter to the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden, did you not, stating why you did not return to Cross Roads?—Yes.

8662. Was that letter published?—I saw a letter purporting to be from me, published in the second appeal which appeared from the Roman-catholic clergymen. The word "gentlemen" in that letter was not used by me. I attached no importance whatever to the appointment; the appointment with Mr. M'Fadden was made at my suggestion, not at his; and it was made in the course of conversation.

8663. Did you say that you had been in Cork for some time?—I had been in Cork four years; not in the city of Cork, but in the west of Cork.

8664. In what year were you there?—I went in 1851, and I remained till 1855.

8665. When you were in this district in February last, how many houses were you in altogether?—I cannot exactly tell; I went to inquire if general destitution existed; I took no notice of the number of the houses or the names of the people.

F. Hamilton, Esq.

2 July 1858.

8666. How long were you engaged in examining the houses altogether?—I started at about six o'clock in the morning, and I think it was between two and three o'clock in the afternoon before I returned to the hotel.

8667. You were there only one day?—I was three days in the district.

8668. You cannot tell how many houses you were in?—I cannot.

8669. Sir *Edmund Hayes.*] Are the houses very close together?—They are close together; I went backwards and forwards through the villages.

8670. Mr. *Maguire.*] At the meeting of the Board of Guardians, will you inform me how many guardians represented the district of Gweedore?—I cannot tell that.

8671. Is it the fact that there was only one, namely, the agent of Lord George Hill, Mr. Robertson?—It might be the fact; I could not tell you; I did not know what electoral division the guardians represented.

8672. Did a guardian, named Mr. Edward Coll, make any observation in your presence to this effect, "that if the questions related to the district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, he personally knew that there was distress there"?—I did not hear it; I am sure he did not make it.

8673. Did he say anything to that effect?—I did not hear it.

8674. What do you recollect?—I think he said something about a woman who had died of starvation; I do not know Mr. Coll, but I did not hear any observation of that kind.

8675. I think when you went to the Board of Guardians of Letterkenny, you asked there as to the distress in the Gweedore district, and you were told that there was no destitution there?—Yes.

8676. Do you know as a fact whether the people of that district gave 25 *l.* as a contribution towards the fund?—No; I know nothing of that.

8677. Did you ever read Mr. Nichols's reports?—Yes.

8678. Do you remember that Mr. Nichols said that at the time he visited this district, though the people were starving they would not steal?—I do not remember that part of his report.

8679. Did you hear that in 1847, when they were starving, they attacked property?—I did not know anything about them in 1847.

8680. Was it from Dr. Brady that you heard of the sanitary condition of the district?—No; he was not at home; he was in England at the time.

8681. You made an appointment with the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden?—Yes.

8682. Did your letter arrive at Mr. M'Fadden's on the day that you were to have come to him?—I wrote him a letter the night before, and the post leaves about eight in the morning; I calculated that he ought to have got it about ten in the morning.

8683. In time to inform him that you would not arrive?—Yes; I wrote the letter as an act of courtesy.

8684. Did you know that Mr. M'Fadden had invited a number of clergymen of the district to meet you on that occasion?—I did not know anything about it.

8685. You do not exactly remember whether you addressed a letter to "gentlemen," or not?—I stated that, because it appeared in the public press as if it had been addressed to "gentlemen."

8686. You say that you heard that there were four out of the ten Roman-catholic clergymen who signed the appeal, and that you visited those gentlemen; did you meet the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden accidentally at Cross-roads?—Yes.

8687. You did yourself not keep the appointment which you voluntarily made?—I did not.

8688. Was the Rev. Daniel M'Gee, the parish priest, at home?—No.

8689. Was not he at Letterkenny, a distance of 38 miles?—I do not know.

8690. Was the Rev. James M'Fadden in Scotland at the time?—I do not know.

8691. Do you know that there are over 40 townlands in the district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely?—I do not know how many, but there must be a great many.

8692. You visited 12 or 13?—I think so. I visited what were described as being the most destitute parts of the district.

8693. Do you know that there are in the whole of the district something like 1,800 families?—The population of the whole union is 16,000 or 17,000.

8694. I think you say that Gallagher was most intimately acquainted with the condition of the people in the district?—He told me so.

8695. You found Gallagher very valuable, did you not?—I took him as the union officer.

8696. Did

8696. Did you find him both intelligent, and, to use an Irish phrase, knowledgeable?—Not particularly so. I believe he is a very good rate collector, and I took him in that capacity. *R. Hamilton, Esq.* 2 July 1858.

8697. What do you mean by saying you considered him a very good rate collector; did he display any want of knowledge?—I never saw the man before. I thought him an intelligent rate collector. What made me think he was acquainted with the district was, that his duties as a rate collector obliges him to go through the habitations of the people.

8698. Was there anything in your short acquaintance with him which led you to believe that he was an intelligent and trustworthy person who really could describe the condition of the people?—Nothing of the kind.

8699. Do not you think that he would be a rather valuable witness before this Committee?—I do not know. I think he could give information; I have no doubt he could; he was with me both days.

8700. Mr. Serjeant *Deasy*.] You stated something about Mr. M'Fadden saying that he would not swear to the appeal?—That was in conversation; I did not allude to it in my report.

8701. Did he convey to you the impression that he would not swear to it because it was not true?—No, certainly not; but that he was not aware of the facts sufficiently to enable him to swear to them.

8702. Have you power to summon witnesses?—I have power, but I was not directed to make formal inquiry into this question.

8703. Afterwards you did make a formal inquiry, did you not?—No, not a formal inquiry. I took the statements I made use of on oath, instead of taking them verbally from the people, but it was not a formal inquiry. I did not force any person to give me evidence, nor did I summon anybody.

8704. Mr. *Maguire*.] I think you say that the beds and bedding were very bad?—Yes, the beds were generally of straw.

8705. Sir *W. Somerville*.] What is the condition of the Dunfanaghy workhouse?—The Dunfanaghy workhouse is kept in very good order.

8706. Do you find any peculiar dislike in that district to going into the workhouse?—I am not aware of any; I have known instances of persons in reduced circumstances who have gone into the workhouse.

The Rev. *John Doherty*, further Examined.

8707. *Chairman*.] THE Committee wish to know what explanation you desire to give to them as to the signatures to the second petition to which the three names were attached?—On writing the first petition to the Lord Lieutenant of that period, it was so long unanswered that we thought it better to forward a similar petition to the Lord Lieutenant, and inasmuch as the gentlemen first attached their signatures to the memorial that I presented to the Lord Lieutenant, I thought it was not travelling far out of my way in attaching their names to the same memorial, and I do positively affirm that it is identically the same memorial, with the same words. Rev. *John Doherty*.

8708. There is another question which the Committee wish to ask; did you give more relief to the inhabitants in the townland of Glashagh than you did to those in Brinlach, on account of that outrage on the cattle's tails?—As far as I am concerned I had not the distribution of the relief there, but I am aware that the committee had given no directions whatever to give more relief to one place than to the other, unless owing to the degree of destitution.

The Rev. *James M'Fadden*, further Examined.

8709. Lord *Naas*.] Did you ever lay an interdict upon boats going to Tory Island?—Never. Rev. *J. M'Fadden*.

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Appendix, No. 1.

DUNFANAGHY UNION.

COPIES of the CORRESPONDENCE between the Guardians of the Dunfanaghy Union and the Poor Law Commissioners respecting the State of that District:—And, of the REPORT of Mr. *Hamilton*, the Poor Law Inspector.

(No. 48, M. 1858.—Dunfanaghy Union.)

No. 1.—LETTER from the Commissioners to Mr. *R. Hamilton*, Poor Law Inspector.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
16 February 1858.

Sir,

THE Commissioners for administering the laws for relief of the poor in Ireland, transmit to you herewith an extract from the "Freeman's Journal" of the 12th instant, containing statements relative to alleged distress in the districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, and the Commissioners request that you will be so good as to report to them in reference to the statements contained in the extract, and on the condition and prospects of the peasantry in the districts referred to.

By order of the Commissioners,
B. Banks, Chief Clerk.

To Richard Hamilton, Esq.,
Poor Law Inspector, Strabane.

No. 2.—EXTRACT from the "Freeman's Journal," of 12 February 1858, enclosed in the foregoing.

Gweedore and Cloughaneely Relief Fund.

AT a meeting held in Dunfanaghy, on the 18th January 1858, for the purpose of devising the best means of alleviating the distress among the peasants of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, the Very Rev. Hugh M'Fadden, P. P. and V. F., of the united parishes of Tullaughobegly and Raymunterdoney, in the chair. The following Resolutions were put, and unanimously adopted:—

1. *Resolved*—That the deplorable state of Gweedore and Cloughaneely call for the prompt interference of the charitable and humane, and that this meeting appeal to the sympathies of our countrymen, of every class and denomination, for funds to enable us to relieve the peasants of these districts, who are at present undergoing the most indescribable sufferings and privations.

2. *Resolved*—That the Rev. Daniel M'Gee, P.P., Gweedore; the Rev. Hugh M'Fadden, P. P., Cloughaneely; the Rev. J. Doherty, P. P., Rossgull; the Rev. James M'Fadden, C. C., Cloughaneely; the Rev. Bernard M'Monagle, C. C., and the Rev. J. M'Groarty, C. C., both of Doe, be constituted into a local committee, with powers to allocate and distribute, for the relief of those in distress, whatever funds may be received through our appeal to the public.

3. *Resolved*—That the Rev. Daniel M'Gee, P. P., Gweedore, be appointed treasurer of hese funds.

4. *Resolved*—That the Rev. John Doherty, P. P., Carrigart, Strabane, be appointed honorary secretary.

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5. *Resolved*—That this committee meet every fortnight, for the purpose of disposing of the funds on hands, and of conferring for the benefit of those in distress.

6. *Resolved*—That these resolutions and appeal be printed in all the provincial and metropolitan newspapers favourable to our cause.

Appeal.

Countrymen and Fellow-Christians—In the wilds of Donegal, down in the bogs and glens of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, thousands upon thousands of human beings, made after the image and likeness of God, are perishing, or next to perishing, amid squalidness and misery, for want of food and clothing, far away from human aid and pity. On behalf of these famishing victims of oppression and persecution, we venture to appeal to your kind sympathies and religious feelings, and hope that, for the sake of Him who bore our infirmities, you will share with us their distress by lending some substantial assistance to enable us to relieve their wretchedness, and rescue them from death and starvation. The ground of this appeal is simple, and may be thus simply told:—

The districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely are the bleakest and most mountainous in Donegal or in Ireland. The entire surface is broken up by huge, abrupt, and irregular hills of granite, covered with a texture of stunted heath, while the space between is but a shaking and spongy marsh. The inhabitants of these wilds are all Celts of the "pure old race, with the pure old faith," who cultivate small patches of arable land along the shores or claddagh, on which their wretched cabins are built, and subsist principally by rearing stock and grazing sheep on the steep sides of their mountains and in their hollow glens. The increase of the flocks they sold to meet the landlord's rent and the other exigencies of life; while of the wool of their sheep they manufactured frieze and tammy as clothing for the male and female members of their families respectively. Thus, from time immemorial, they lived in the enjoyment of these wild mountains, leading a most innocent and peaceable rural life, warm and faithful in their friendships, while their attachment to the old faith was stronger than death. Last year brought a sad change on these warm-hearted peasants. All the landlords of these districts, save one, simultaneously deprived them of their mountains, giving them to Scotch and English graziers for sheep-walks, and, at the same time, doubled, trebled, and in many instances quadrupled, the rents on the miserable patches left them. These mountains, so unjustly pressed from the unfortunate natives, were peopled with Scotch and English sheep. But, sadder still, the strange sheep imported to these mountains throve not. Last winter was very prejudicial to sheep, particularly under Scotch treatment; the Donegal mountains proved treacherous, and their tracts devious to strangers. The sheep recently placed on this strange pasturage were prone, from their natural instinct, to wander, and the Scotch shepherds were supinely negligent in the duties of their calling. The natural consequence was that large numbers of the sheep strayed; large numbers of them were lost in bog-holes; and large numbers perished through the inclemency of the winter and the want of proper care. During the penal laws, we are told that grand jury levies were made upon Irish catholics for losses sustained by protestant merchants at the hands of catholic powers with whom England might happen to be then at war. It must have been in the same spirit that, in order to recompense these losses of the Scotch and English graziers, an enormous and unjust grand jury warrant was obtained against these innocent Celts. And in order, moreover, to carry out this iniquitous enactment, and the more effectually to secure the adverse and unjust possession of these mountains, an extra force of constabulary was, at the instance of these landlords, ordered to these districts, for whose support a most ruinous tax has been imposed on the wretched inhabitants. In short, by those and similarly unjust and arbitrary proceedings, the sum of about 3,000*l.* has been levied on the poorest and most miserable district on God's earth. Already the law officials, backed by 300 constabulary, have, at the bayonet's point, collected the last farthing of this enormously disproportioned levy. The poor shivering and famishing peasants, under the terror of an armed force, wielded by officials without feeling or humanity, were obliged to sell their little scanty bins of potatoes and small stacks of rye and corn, to meet this merciless demand. It is almost incredible the means these poor creatures resorted to, in order to make up the necessary sum. Many went 30 miles to borrow or beg the money from their friends; many sold their kitchen furniture and utensils; and even mothers were known to have sold their cradles. It was, truly, a sight to make angels weep, to see the poor helpless fathers, amidst the tears and wailings of their more helpless wives and hungry children, parting with the last stone of their potatoes and other necessaries of life to pay this iniquitous tax. The stalwart and robust peasantry could do nothing but weep, the womanly hearts of the mothers were wrung with agony, and the ragged children, poor innocent things, bewailed, in loud cries and convulsive sobs, their forlorn lot. And we, who witnessed these scenes of woe, are not ashamed to confess that we too shed tears, unavailing tears, of pity and sympathy for them. But there was no remedy. Like Herod's savage massacre of the Innocents, the warrant was unfeelingly executed. The foul and dastardly deed was perpetrated, consummated. And thus the food of some thousand families has been swept away, and their only means of supporting and clothing themselves cruelly pressed from them. Whether the object of the landlord's harsh and tyrannical treatment to these poor peasants is to crush them out, or wring from them a larger revenue, we will not stop to inquire; but we have no hesitation in saying that, unless they are assisted in their

their present distress, they must sink under the weight of their misery, must be blotted out of existence, and that their once happy homes will become walks for Scotch and English hoggets. They are now, at all events, in consequence of such treatment, perishing of hunger and nakedness, in their damp and comfortless cabins. But we will venture a little into detail:—

There are at this moment 800 families subsisting on seaweed, crabs, cockles, or any other edible matter they can pick up along the seashore or scrape off the rocks. There are about 600 adults of both sexes who, through sheer poverty, are now going barefooted, amidst the inclemency of the season, on this bleak northern coast. There are about 700 families that have neither bed nor bed-clothes, but are forced to lie on the cold damp earth in the rags worn by them during the day. There are about 800 families without a second bed, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, being huddled together as best they can. Thousands of the male population have only one cotton shirt, and wear none while it is being washed, while thousands have not even one. The females are still in a worse condition. There are about 400 families, in which there may be half-a-dozen of full-grown females, who have only one dress among them in which they can appear in public; mothers and daughters alternately using this common wardrobe when they go out of doors. There are about 600 families who have now neither cow, sheep, nor goat, and who, from the beginning of the year to its close, hardly ever know the taste of milk or butter. There are thousands of youths, of both sexes, verging on the age of puberty, who are so partially and scantily clothed that modesty forbids one to look at them; they are only objects for the eye of charity. We will not, though we could, go further into particulars, but on behalf of those, and these, and all appeal for funds to enable us to assist them in their respective wants. And we appeal in the name of Him who said, "Deal thy bread to the hungry," "Clothe the naked," "Give drink to the thirsty," "Sell what you possess, and give alms to the poor." The Son of God asks your alms in the person of those perishing peasants. He is hungry; will you give him to eat? He is thirsty; will you give him to drink? He is naked; will you clothe him? Do it to them, and you do it to Him. For he says Himself, "For as long as you did it to one of these, my least brethren, you did it to me." We appeal, to fathers and mothers, with fond and promising children, and request that "as you would that others would act to your children if they were in want, act you to the desolate families in the wilds of Donegal." We appeal to the chaste and virtuous young ladies of Ireland, and say, "as you value that priceless ornament of your sex, maiden modesty, and as you know what it is to put female delicacy rudely to the blush, for want of sufficient clothing, grant us of your superfluous dresses wherewith to enable us to buy plain dresses for these half-dressed girls of Donegal. Both we and they will pray that God may screen you from all shame and confusion." And finally, before all, and beyond all, we appeal to the patriotic young men of Ireland. This fine old Celtic race is about being crushed aside to make room for Scotch and English sheep. We appeal to your noble and generous feelings, as men and patriots, to assist us in our efforts to prevent their total extinction. We declare it in the face of the world as our solemn conviction that in the sight of God and man, there is not a more precious offering than alms from the patriot's muscular hand, when given for the love of country and the relief of his kind.

John Doherty, P.P., Carrigart, Rossgull.
Hugh M'Fadden, P.P., Falcarragh, Cloughaneely.
Daniel M'Gee, P.P., Bundeg, Gweedore.
John O'Donnell, P.P., Dungloe, Rosses.
John Flanagan, P.P., Rathmelton.
Hugh M'Fadden, C.C., Allsaints.
James M'Fadden, C.C., Falcarragh, Cloughaneely.
Bernard M'Monagle, C.C., Dunfanaghy, Doe.
John M'Groarty, C.C., Cashelmore, Doe.
Hugh Cullen, C.C., Rossgull.

(No. 4471, 1858.)

No. 3.—Extract from Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of Guardians, dated 16th February 1858

Resolved, THAT having seen, with regret and astonishment, in the newspapers, an appeal signed by 10 Roman-catholic clergymen, setting forth a dreadful state of destitution at present existing in this union, we consider ourselves called on, as the guardians of the poor, both from our own local knowledge and upon inquiry, to say such a statement is quite false and without any foundation; and we think we are borne out in this by the fact of having only 22 paupers in the workhouse from the entire union.

As this appeal has been published for the purpose of raising money, we request the Poor Law Commissioners will direct Mr. Hamilton, their inspector, to inquire into the state of this union; and if found untrue (as we confidently affirm that the people are better off this season than they have been since the famine year), we hope the Commissioners will publicly contradict the statement referred to, as it is alike offensive to the people and unjust to the guardians.

 Ordered,

Appendix, No. 1.

Ordered, That the clerk forward to the Poor Law Commissioners a copy of the statement referred to, and a return of the paupers chargeable to the several electoral divisions of the union.

Documents referred to in the above Resolution:

I. Appeal by Roman-catholic Clergymen (*see* No. 2, extract from "Freeman's Journal" of 12th February 1858.)

II. Return of Paupers chargeable to the several Electoral Divisions of the Union.

Dunfanaghy Union.

Number of Persons who received Relief in the Union during the Seven Days preceding Saturday the 13th day of February 1858.

Relieved and chargeable to		In the Workhouse.
Dunfanaghy Electoral Division		6
Ards	„	—
Creenasmear	„	7
Creeslough	„	2
Doe Castle	„	1
Crossroads	„	2
Dunlewy	„	2
Magheraclogher	„	—
Meenacladdy	„	—
Gortahork	„	—
Union at large	„	2
Total		22

By order,
Patrick Coll, Union Clerk.

(No. 4471, 1858.)

No. 4.—Letter from the Commissioners to the Board of Guardians.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
Sir, 22 February 1858.

The Commissioners for administering the laws for relief of the poor in Ireland have had before them the resolution contained in Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of Guardians of Dunfanaghy Union, on the 16th instant, forwarding a printed document, signed by 10 Roman-catholic clergymen, in which it is alleged that a dreadful state of destitution exists in certain districts of the union, and requesting the Commissioners to instruct their inspector, Mr. R. Hamilton, to make inquiry on the subject, the guardians being of opinion that the statements in the document are not borne out by fact, there being at present but 22 paupers in the workhouse from the entire union.

In reference thereto, the Commissioners desire to state that prior to the receipt of the guardians' minutes, their attention having been attracted by the allegations in question, the Commissioners had directed Mr. Hamilton to inquire into the destitution prevailing in the districts referred to.

By order of the Commissioners,

To the Clerk of Dunfanaghy Union. *B. Banks*, Chief Clerk.

(No. 5279, 1858.)

No. 5.—Report from Mr. *R. Hamilton*, Poor Law Inspector, to the Commissioners.

Gentlemen, Urney, Strabane, 26 February 1858.

In reference to your letter of the 16th instant, No. 48, M. 1858, transmitting to me an extract from the "Freeman's Journal," of the 12th instant (herewith returned), containing statements relative to alleged distress in the districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, of Dunfanaghy Poor Law Union, and requesting me to report to you on the subject; and also with respect to the present condition and future prosperity of the peasantry in the localities referred to, I have the honour to inform you that, owing to an official engagement in another part of my district, I was unable to visit Dunfanaghy until the 23d instant.

I attended the meeting of the Board of Guardians held on that day, and I found the following resolution had been adopted at their previous meeting: "That having seen with regret

regret and astonishment in the newspapers an appeal, signed by 10 Roman-catholic clergymen, setting forth a dreadful state of destitution at present existing in this union, we consider ourselves called on as guardians of the poor, both from our local knowledge, and on inquiry, to say such statement is wholly false and without foundation; and we think we are borne out in this assertion by the fact of having only 22 paupers in the workhouse from the entire union; and as this appeal has been published for the purpose of raising money, we request the Poor Law Commissioners will direct Mr. Hamilton, their inspector, to inquire into the state of this union, and if found, as we confidently affirm it will be, that the people are better off this season than they have been since the famine year, we hope the Commissioners will publicly contradict the statement made, as it is alike offensive to the people and unjust towards the guardians."

The representations of distress in the locality appear to be the subject of controversy, and therefore I determined to take evidence on oath, and herewith submit the minutes.

In the first instance, I examined the four elected guardians present at the meeting of the 23d, viz.; Mr. Olphert, Mr. Ingram, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. M'Clean.

No. 1.—Mr. Olphert resides in Cloughaneely; but I may observe he is not Mr. Wybrants Olphert, the Vice-Chairman of the Board. I believe he is well acquainted with the condition of the people in his neighbourhood. He swears that "he is decidedly of opinion the peasantry in his neighbourhood are better off this year than they have been any year since the famine;" and he confidently swears there is not a family in Cloughaneely compelled from want to live on food collected on the seashore. He further swears that the people are better clothed this year than they have been for some years past. He also swears that he believes the supply of potatoes in the hands of the peasantry of Cloughaneely is more than they will be able to consume.

No. 2.—Mr. Ramsay, the principal food merchant in the town of Dunfanaghy, swears that the demand for provisions this year is decidedly less than it has been for some years past, and states that this is owing to the good crops of last harvest.

He swears there has been no increase in the number of beggars in the town of Dunfanaghy this year, and that, as far as he knows, the condition and prospects of the peasantry is better this year than it has been for some time past.

No. 3. Mr. M'Clean, a resident of the town of Dunfanaghy, swears that he is of opinion the people are as well off this year, if not better, than they have been for some years past; he also swears that he has not seen the slightest appearance of any case of real destitution in the town of Dunfanaghy.

No. 4.—Mr. Ingram swears that he considers the condition of the people decidedly better this year than he ever recollects it; the potato crop was most abundant, and the oat crop excellent. He further says he has not observed a single case of destitution in the union; and the clothing of the people is decidedly better than it has been for some time past.

No. 5.—The clerk and master of the workhouse appears to have held the situation since the year 1841. He swears that on all occasions the Board of Guardians have freely admitted destitute persons to the workhouse, and that it is two years since they have refused an application for relief.

Only 27 persons appear to have applied for relief since last harvest, and they were all admitted, and no applications for provisional relief have been made at the workhouse; the master says that if distress, "such as is described" in the appeal he has read, existed in the Gweedore and Cloughaneely districts, he is satisfied the people would seek relief in the workhouse, as they did during the famine years. He swears that the dietary table at present in use in the workhouse is quite sufficient for the several classes.

The relieving officer of the union, whose duty it is to be thoroughly acquainted with the condition of the people, swears that he is not aware of there being any urgent distress at the union at the present time; and on his last visit to the Gweedore district, he saw no extraordinary distress, and no applications were made to him for relief. He says he has known the Gweedore district for the last 20 years, and he believes the people never were better off than they are this year. He also says that the clothing of the people is no criterion as to their real circumstances.

The Dunfanaghy union contains an area of 125,667 acres, is valued at 10,715 *l.*, and according to the census of 1851, has a population of 17,320.

The number of inmates in the workhouse appear to have been, in

February 1856 - - - - - - - -	41
February 1857 - - - - - - - -	28
February 1858 - - - - - - - -	22

The following table gives you the particulars for each electoral division, and also the number of inhabited houses, according to the census of 1851.

Appendix, No. 1.

DUNFANAGHY UNION.

A Return showing the Area, Valuation, Population, &c., of the several Electoral Divisions.

ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	AREA.	VALUATION.	POPULATION.			Inhabited Houses, 1851.	Paupers in Workhouse.		
							February 1856.	February 1857.	February 1858.
	A. r. p.	*£. s. d.*	M.	F.	Total.				
Dunfanaghy - -	9,711 1 19	2,333 13 -	1,119	1,173	2,292	325	10	6	6
Ards - - -	5,214 3 20	1,600 - -	548	577	1,125	171	-	-	-
Creenasmena - -	8,342 0 8	617 12 -	427	446	873	140	7	7	7
Creeslough - -	5,324 0 34	797 19 -	667	716	1,383	250	6	4	2
Doe Castle - -	3,634 0 6	556 10 -	276	332	608	114	10	2	2
Crossroads - -	23,228 1 25	2,086 11 -	1,459	1,629	3,088	557	6	7	3
Dunlewy - -	22,865 1 26	628 3 -	673	745	1,418	262	1	1	2
Maherneloghea -	24,082 0 21	967 10 8	1,318	1,359	2,677	502	1	1	-
Meenacladdy - -	10,024 1 13	386 17 -	787	781	1,568	285	-	-	-
Gortahork - -	13,240 3 5	741 4 -	1,089	1,199	2,288	377	-	-	-
Total - - -	125,667 2 17	10,715 19 8	8,363	8,957	17,320	2,983	41	28	22

23 February 1858.

Patrick Coll, Clerk of Union.

The document sent to me is signed by 10 Roman-catholic clergymen, but I am informed only four of them reside in the union, viz.:—

Rev. Hugh M'Fadden, P. P.
Rev. Daniel Magee, P. P.
Rev. Berd. M'Monagle, C. C.
Rev. James M'Fadden, C. C.

I called on these gentlemen for the purpose of getting information as to the particular localities in which distress existed, but I did not find any of them at home; however, I met the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden, P. P., and I told him I was making inquiry respecting the destitution described in an appeal which he had signed, and asked him to mention the localities in which the greatest destitution existed. He said "it was general," and attributed it to excessive taxation, and to the landlords having raised their rents. I asked Mr. M'Fadden why the people did not apply for relief in the workhouse if destitution existed to the extent described. He said that in consequence of the "Gregory Clause" they could not be relieved under the poor law.

I took Daniel Gallagher, who has been the poor-rate collector in the Gweedore and Cloughaneely districts (and also county cess collector) since the year 1847, with me to Gweedore. From the nature of the duties he has had to discharge, I considered that he must be intimately acquainted with the condition of the people in his district, and I may observe that he resides in the centre of Cloughaneely.

In passing through Cloughaneely, Gallagher described to me the condition of the peasantry on the different estates in that district, and you will see by his evidence, No. 7, "that he swears that since the famine of 1846 he never saw the people of Cloughaneely better off; that the potato crop of last year was most abundant, and that in the course of his travels through his district he has not met with any case of destitution. He says there are some poor people on Mr. Nixon's property in Crossroads division, but he says there is nothing like destitution amongst them; and he swears that there are no families in Cloughaneely living on food collected on the seashore." He says he never saw the people of Cloughaneely better clothed than they are at present, and in this respect he describes the tenantry on Mr. Wybrants Olphert's estate as being the most comfortable.

At Crossroads I called at the Police Barrack, with the view of taking the evidence of the head constable respecting the condition of the people in his district, but he did not like to give evidence on oath without an order from his officer; however, he stated that he was well acquainted with the condition of the people in Cloughaneely; that in the discharge of his duty he had to be continually amongst them. He said that they never were better off than

than they are this year; that no destitution existed; that last year's crop of potatoes was more than usually abundant, and that there was no ground for the representations of destitution.

I have received a letter from the Rev. Mr. Stewart, the Protestant rector of Tullaghobigly, in which parish Cloughaneely is situated, and as Mr. Stewart appears to have been making inquiry respecting the condition of the people, I give his letter in full:

"Sir, "Tullaghobigly, 25 February 1858.

"Since reading in the newspapers the fearful accounts of the miserable state of destitution and nakedness to which a large number of the inhabitants of this parish are said to be reduced, I have been making diligent inquiries on the subject from people likely to be well informed on the point, and from their opinion, as well as from my own knowledge of the country extending over a good many years, I would say that there is hardly any foundation for the report above referred to; on the contrary, although unfortunately there is always more or less distress among so large a population as ours, still it is generally admitted there is less than usually this year. They had a fair crop of potatoes last season, and along the shores where the largest population is situated they make a great deal of kelp, for which there was a fine price, and I have no hesitation in saying that there is much less distress in the parish of Tullaghobigly this year than there has been any year since 1847, the famine year.

(signed) "*A. Stewart.*"

The potato crop, and also the corn crop of last year, appear to have been unusually abundant, and as no levy has been made on Cloughaneely for either extra police or for the malicious destruction of sheep (the assessments having been exclusively on Gweedore district), I am satisfied that little or no destitution at present exists in that portion of the union, and that the prospects of the peasantry in it are as good, if not better, than they have been for some years past.

I started from the Gweedore Hotel at an early hour on Wednesday morning with collector Gallagher, and I desired him to bring me to, what he considered, the poorest villages in the Gweedore district. You will observe that he swears he considers the places visited by me to be the worst or most destitute part of the district.

I went through the following townlands: Ardnagappery, Magheraclogher, Magheragallen, Derrybeg, Stranacoreragh, Lunniragh, Carrick, Strameekilmartin, Bunbeg, Knockustoler, Dore, Arduns, Meenderygamph, and I went into the poorest looking cabins.

In almost every house I visited, during the early part of the morning, I found from two to five or six head of cattle living in the same apartment with the people; and in several instances the manure heap was close to the bed on which the people were sleeping. Their beds appear to be very wretched, principally straw, but they all seemed to have bed-clothes. I did not see the appearance of any family having slept on the floor. I believe the bedding or clothing of the people is no criterion as to their real circumstances.

I visited one house in Crossroads electoral division, and I was credibly informed the owner of it had 20 cows, 9 pigs, 2 horses, and 40 sheep, and I think the inmates of this house were as dirty, as badly clothed, and had as few comforts as the majority of the Gweedore people.

I should have mentioned that in my walk through the villages I was accompanied by the head constable of constabulary, a most intelligent officer, who had been appointed by the Government county cess collector, and had collected the extraordinary taxes levied on the district (the particulars of which I will give you in this report). He has been stationed for several years at Gweedore, and is well acquainted with the circumstances of every family in it. You will observe that he swears, as well as collector Gallagher, that the townlands visited by me are about the poorest in his district.

I found potatoes at every house, either stored inside, or in pits outside the premises; and I saw an abundance of potatoes pitted in the fields throughout the whole of the district, and there was unmistakeable marks of cattle in almost all the dwellings.

A man, named Daniel M'Bride, accompanied me for upwards of three hours; his object was evidently to exaggerate the destitution of the people. He told me he was intimately acquainted with the circumstances of every family in the locality. I asked him to bring me to any family who were subsisting on food collected on the seashore. He said, "He did not know any family in the neighbourhood at present living on that kind of food, but that before long there would be plenty living on it."

You will observe that head constable Young and collector Gallagher swear that they heard this statement, and I think it is an important one in connexion with my inquiry.

Except the children of one family, I did not see a single person with the appearance of having suffered from the want of wholesome food, and on inquiry respecting that family, I found the father was in no want; but the mother of the children was dead, and they had a stepmother.

In the course of my walk I did not see a delicate looking person, nor did I meet with a case of sickness in any of the houses; and I think the population were as well, if not better clothed than the peasantry along other parts of the west coast of Ireland. I saw no person without sufficient covering; the majority of the people had no shoes, but that is not an unusual circumstance in the county Donegal.

Appendix, No. 1.

The external appearance of the houses is, generally speaking, better than in other parts of the county Donegal; most of them appear to have been newly thatched this winter.

I visited three national schools, Derrybeg, Knockastoler, and Dore. There were present in these schools 157 children, all healthy looking, and, with the exception of shoes, sufficiently clothed.

On referring to the attendance table of last year, I found that in two of the schools the attendance of children this year was considerably over what it was last year.

In the other school it was about the same.

I examined Mr. Cruice, sub-inspector of constabulary in charge of the Gweedore or Dunfanaghy district. It will be seen from his evidence, No. 9, that he has been in the habit of visiting the locality two or three times a month, and has had frequent opportunity of becoming thoroughly acquainted with the condition of the peasantry. He swears, "that from all he has seen and heard from the men under his command, that the present condition of the people of Gweedore (considering the large sums of money levied from them) is as good, if not better, than it has been since he came to the district in 1853. He says he has personal knowledge of every family, and that he is satisfied, if real destitution existed, it must have come under his notice. He says the people, generally speaking, appear to be warmly clothed; and he does not believe there is a single family in the locality living on food collected at the seashore."

No. 10.—Mr. Anderson, the county inspector of constabulary for Donegal, states, "that during the last few days he has been employed making a tour of inspection in the Gweedore portion of his district, and has passed through the most remote parts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely. He says that he was surprised to see at this season of the year so much appearance of provisions about the dwellings of the people; and he was also surprised to find the peasantry looking so comfortable. In the course of his drives he did not meet with a single case of destitution, nor did he see a single beggar. He says that he made particular inquiries at the several police-barracks if any destitution existed in the locality, and at each place was informed there was nothing of the kind."

No. 11.—Captain Dyer, formerly a captain in the 3d Light Dragoons, and a gentleman altogether unconnected with the district, says, "that he took the shooting on Mr. Olphert's mountains in July last, and came to Gweedore Hotel in August, and has resided there ever since; that during this period he has been constantly through the electoral divisions of Dunlewy, Gortahork, Meenaclady, and Magheraclogher, and has observed the condition of the peasantry. On his first arrival he was much struck by the superior appearance of the people, as compared with the people of the same class in the county Kerry, where he had been residing for the last five years. He appears to have been shooting in the county Mayo and the county Galway during the last two years, and he says he thinks the peasantry of Gweedore are better clothed and more comfortable looking than the peasantry in Erris (Mayo), Connemara, and other parts of Galway. He swears that in the whole course of his walks, and he says he has been out every day he could get out, that he has not met with a single case of real destitution, and that during the whole time he has been at the Gweedore Hotel, he has not seen more than three or four beggars. He says that if destitution existed to any extent in the district, he must have observed it, and that the people never asked him for alms as he passed through the villages."

No. 12.—Head constable Young swears "that he has known the peasantry of the Gweedore district for the past 14 years, and that he is thoroughly acquainted with their circumstances; that he has no hesitation in saying that their present condition is as good as he ever saw it; that the supply of potatoes amongst them is abundant, better than it has been for many years, and that he does not know a family in the whole of his district in want of wholesome food. He also says the clothing of the people is not worse this year than it has been, and that he never observed a person in Gweedore without sufficient covering."

You will observe, that I swore Mr. Young as to what occurred in his walk with me through the district, and that his evidence corroborates my statements.

From the foregoing statements, you will be able to form a pretty accurate idea as to the present condition of the peasantry in the Gweedore district, and I have no hesitation in saying that real destitution does not exist to any extent in the locality; but as to the future prospects of the people there, I cannot speak with any confidence; much will depend upon themselves; for if the outrages which have been committed in that district continue, and further taxation be rendered necessary, I see nothing before them but utter ruin and desolation; and I may here give you the particulars of the outrages referred to, which have been committed during the last year, and for which the district has been so heavily taxed.

It appears, in the year 1855, Lord George Hill set a portion of his mountains to an English sheep farmer, and I am informed by his agriculturist that, in setting this mountain, he did not deprive his tenantry of any right they had hitherto been entitled to.

In December 1855, sheep were first put on the mountains, and for one year they remained there unmolested.

In January 1857, about 200 of the sheep were maliciously destroyed, and from that date to the present time the malicious destruction of sheep has gone steadily on.

On Lord George Hill's mountain, about 1,130 sheep have been destroyed; and on the estates of Mr. Olpherts and Mr. Woodhouse, about 425, making in all 1,555 sheep destroyed.

The tax called the sheep tax is levied off the district for the purpose of paying the owner of those sheep the value of his property thus maliciously destroyed.

There

There is but one English sheep farmer in the district; he has still about 1,300 sheep on the mountains.

No later than last Saturday 21 sheep were destroyed; the carcases of some of which were discovered while I was at the hotel.

In consequence of these outrages a large additional force of police was sent to the district, and you will find in head constable Young's evidence the particulars respecting the assessment made on the district for this extra police force, and also for compensation for sheep maliciously destroyed.

The following Table, however, gives you the valuation, amount of police tax and sheep tax assessed on each electoral division:

	VALUATION.	POLICE TAX.	SHEEP TAX.	TOTAL.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Magheraclogher - - -	967 10 8	490 4 11	834 12 7	1,354 17 6
Meenaclady - - - -	386 17 -	205 - 4	289 18 9	494 19 1
Gortahork, Townland of Kieldrum	98 4 -	19 13 3	35 - 4	54 17 3
Dunlewy - - - - -	628 - -	96 1 6	- - -	96 1 6
TOTAL - - - £.	- - -	811 - -	1,189 11 8	2,000 15 4

You will observe that the poundage for these assessments, on the valuation, is on Meenaclady about 1*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*, and Magheraclogher 1*l.* 8*s.* in the pound, and that these two electoral divisions have to bear nearly the whole of the taxation, the outrages having been committed in them.

No collector could be found to undertake the collection of such taxes, and the Government, therefore, appointed the head constable of police county cess collector, and placed the warrants in his hands.

It will be seen from his evidence, that with the exception of 16*s.* every farthing of the police tax (8*l.* 11*s.*) has been paid to him. He says that at first he had to distrain numbers of cattle, but afterwards the money was paid to him freely.

The tax for the malicious destruction of sheep appears to have been laid on after the police tax. The head constable says that, with the exception of 15*l.*, he expects to have the entire of it (1,189*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*) collected before the assizes next week. He says this tax was paid to him freely; he had scarcely to distrain any cattle, and that the people brought the money to the police barracks.

It appears that there are 623 occupiers rated under 4*l.* in Magheraclogher division, and only 12 above that sum. In Meenaclady division 282 occupiers under 4*l.*, and only five above that sum.

Mr. Robinson informs me that the rents now paid by the tenants on Lord George Hill's estate in very few instances exceed the poor law valuation; and he says that since he came to the district the rents never were so well paid by the tenants as this year.

Mr. Robinson is a Scotchman; he has been employed for the last 16 or 17 years as agriculturist and general manager on Lord George Hill's estate; and he thinks the people of Gweedore are in better circumstances this year than they have been any year since he came there; and he is of opinion they have more cattle and provisions, and that there is no destitution whatever.

He says the clothing of the people is as good this year as it generally is; that he has directions from Lord George Hill to give bedding and flannel to any of the tenants requiring it, but no applications have been made to him this year, though the people were in the habit of applying to him during former years. He also says that he has direction to give employment at remunerative wages, but no one has applied this year for work. He says that the men remain in a state of idleness during the winter months; and he further states that he pays from 500*l.* to 600*l.* yearly to the people on Lord George Hill's estate for worsted stockings knit by them.

I wrote to some of the proprietors of the district for information respecting the alleged destitution. I received a letter from Mr. Wybrants Olphert, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Guardians, and proprietor of about one-half of Cloughaneely, and a constant resident on his property, in which he says, that "with respect to my own property, which is situated in the district called Cloughaneely, I know of no distress existing among the tenants; rents never were better paid, and taxes of all sorts. The district of Cloughaneely never was accused of destroying the sheep, with the exception of one townland of mine, Upper Keildrum, and consequently had not to pay any tax for them, so that we have no reason to be in distress from over-taxation. Magheraclogher and Meenaclady electorals, which are in the Gweedore district, paid all the sheep tax since 1850. I never had a pauper in the workhouse from my property; and, if I heard of any tenants wanting assistance, I would most willingly give it to them, without any appeal to the public. I see no prospect of

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distress this year, as both money, potatoes, and meal are plenty; in fact, I think the district of Cloughaneely never was better off. With the exception of a small property I purchased in the Incumbered Estates Court in June 1856, I have not raised my rents; this I raised about 2*s.* 6*d.* an acre. I allow tenant-right; and generally from 30 to 40 years' purchase is given to tenants leaving their farms. I never distrain a tenant for rent, nor have I ever ejected one."

Mr. Foster, agent to Lord George Hill and other proprietors in the district, in his letter says, "As to the statements lately made relative to the state of the Gweedore and Cloughaneely district, there is not even a shadow of truth in them, as I know the people were not so well off for a number of years past, and it is a doubt to me if they ever were so well off.

"As to the rents, every shilling due to Lord George Hill on the 1st November was paid me before the 10th November; and the tenants came to the rent office in such numbers to pay their rents, I was obliged to get an extra hand to assist me in receiving the rents, and several paid me 5*l.* notes in mistake for 1*l.* notes. They had a most extraordinary fine summer to make kelp, and they also got a great price for it. The sale of kelp alone brings several thousand pounds to the district; and the lobster fishery, lately established, has also been of great assistance, as the average sale is 500 dozen a week. They had a good crop of potatoes last year, and I am certain they never were so well off. Of course the payment of the extra police tax, and for the destruction of sheep, has taken a very large sum from them, but I am not aware of any tenant in Gweedore having sold a cow, horse, or sheep to make those payments. It is most difficult at present to get labourers in the Gweedore district, except at exorbitant wages, and when there was really distress there was no end of the persons coming to look for employment.

"It is quite impossible to judge of the state of the people from their appearance, or the way they live in their houses, as they have not the least idea of either cleanliness or comfort, nor do they wish to be improved, or that strangers should come and settle in the country. I know numbers that have at this moment several hundred pounds, and you would not suppose, from the appearance of themselves, houses and families, that they were better off than any of the rest."

Mr. Stewart, of Horn Head, writes, "I have been all my life resident in the Dunfanaghy Union, and I never saw the people more comfortably off than now. I have one townland in the Gweedore district, on which both police tax and sheep tax were collected. A tenant, whose annual rent is under 2*l.*, handed me a 10*l.* note to take my rent from it."

From Mr. Woodhouse I have received the following letter:

"I hope you will, if possible, afford me an opportunity of seeing you before you make your report respecting Dunfanaghy. With regard to my tenants, I never knew them in better circumstances; I have no dispute with them; I have never violated tenant-right; I have not evicted any one, or sold any goods as a distress for rent.

"The statements made respecting me in the letters in the 'Ulsterman,' and in the petition, &c., are utterly unfounded; so much so, that only my name is mentioned; I could not say that the matters applied to me.

"When I last received Torry rents, three of the tenants owing sums under 2*l.* handed me 10*l.* Bank of Ireland notes to take the rent out of, and give the difference."

Since I commenced to write this report, I have received a letter from the medical officer in charge of the Gweedore dispensary district, stating that the amount of disease in his district is less than it has been during former years.

I am credibly informed, that with the exception of one tenant in the Gweedore district, who was ejected for persisting in keeping a public-house contrary to his landlord's wish, but who was afterwards allowed to return to his house and farm, no evictions have taken place on the estates of either Lord George Hill, Mr. Wybrants Olphert, Colonel Kennedy, or Mr. Woodhouse.

On my return from Gweedore, I passed through the adjoining union of Letterkenny, and made particular inquiry respecting the condition of the people there, and was informed generally that they never were better off than they are this year, and I saw no appearance of any destitution. A guardian who was at the Board on Friday (Mr. M'Auley) asked me if my inquiry was in consequence of the representations of distress in Gweedore. I said it was. He told me he had been well acquainted with the condition of the peasantry in that locality for the last 28 years, and he described the people as living in the most wretched state before Lord George Hill purchased the property. I took his evidence on oath; and you will observe that he has visited the locality twice during the last three weeks, and from what he saw, he is satisfied the people are as well off as they ever were, and that he is quite sure they are much better off for clothing and bedding than they formerly were. He states he was employed as auctioneer, a few weeks ago, to sell a part of a cargo of herrings in that neighbourhood; that all the herrings were at once sold to the people, and upwards of 500*l.* in cash paid down by them; and he says he could have sold four times as much; and he is satisfied, from the description of purchasers, the herrings were bought for the use of the people in the locality.

On

On my way to Gweedore, I passed through the Milford Union, and made particular inquiry as to whether unusual distress existed in that district. There was a large attendance of guardians present at the Board on Monday; and in answer to my inquiry, they adopted the annexed resolution, and it was signed by nine elected guardians, and three ex officio guardians. I have only to add, that I saw no indication of distress in that union.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. Hamilton.*

MILFORD UNION.

AT a Meeting of the Board of Guardians, held on the 22d day of February 1858.

Present: in the Chair,—Thomas Batt, Esq., J. P., Rathmullen House;

Other Guardians,—John Sproule, Esq., J. P., Ramelton; Robert H. Patten, Esq., J. P., Croaghan House, Tamney, Rathmullen; Mr. George M'Gowan; Mr. Collin Reid; Mr. Joseph Dixon; Mr. William Boyle; Mr. Isaac Matson; Mr. Robert Stewart; Mr. James William Stewart; Mr. Moses Gregg; Mr. Robert Morrow.

Mr. Hamilton having expressed a wish that the Guardians of Milford Union present this day should state their views relative to the state of destitution in their several electoral divisions:

Resolved,—That we consider pauperism and destitution in the Milford Union is much less than it has been for the last three years; that the supply of provisions is greater, a much larger quantity of oats having been ground into meal and stored up by the farmers this season than for some years past; and that the crop of potatoes was larger, and of better quality, and is keeping sound.

(signed) *Thomas Batt*, Chairman, J. P.
William Reid, Clerk of Milford Union.

No. 6.—MINUTES of EVIDENCE enclosed in foregoing Report.

MINUTES of Inquiry respecting the present Condition and Prospects of the Peasantry in the Gweedore and Cloughaneely Districts of the Dunfanaghy Union.

Thomas Olphert, being duly sworn, states,—Am an elected guardian of the Dunfanaghy Union; I reside at Corroncannon, Crossroad, in the Cloughaneely district; I am acquainted with the condition of the peasantry in Meenaclady, but I have not been there lately. I know the condition of the peasantry in a good part of Cloughaneely, and from what I know, am decidedly of opinion that they are better off this year than they have been any year since the famine, and I am confident there is not a family in Cloughaneely who are compelled from want to live on seaweed, crabs, or other matters collected along the shore. It is a constant practice amongst the peasantry to collect particular kinds of seaweed, but this is done by all classes, and is no criterion of destitution. The people used it occasionally as medicine.

From my own observation of the people of Cloughaneely, I have no hesitation in saying that they are better clothed this year than they have been for some years past.

A very small portion of the sheep tax and no police tax has been levied off the Cloughaneely district.

About half of Cloughaneely is the property of Mr. Wybrants Olphert; the other half belongs to Mr. Steward, of Horn Head, Mr. Nixon, myself, and others. The rents were never more freely paid than this year; I had not to ask the tenants for it. A portion of Mr. Wybrants Olphert's mountains are set to Scotch sheep farmers, but there has not been many sheep killed on them.

As far as I am aware, the rents have not been raised this year.

The potato crop of last year was a very abundant crop, better than it was for some years past, and the crop seems to have kept well, and I believe there is a very large supply in the hands of the peasantry of Cloughaneely, more than they will be able to consume. I believe the corn crop was also very good.

Thomas Olphert.

Swown before me, this 23d February 1858,

(signed) *R. Hamilton*,
Poor Law Inspector.

William Ramsay, being duly sworn, states,—I am an elected guardian of Dunfanaghy Union, and am a general merchant, and I have been supplying the poorer classes in the neighbourhood with all sorts of provisions. The demand for provisions from the peasantry this year is decidedly less than it has been for some years past, which is owing to a good crop of potatoes and corn.

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There certainly has been no increase in the number of beggars in the town of Dunfanaghy this year, and, as far as I know, the condition and prospects of the peasantry are better this year than for some years past.

Wm. Ramsay.

Sworn before me, this 23d February 1858,

(signed) *R. Hamilton.*

Thomas M'Lean, being duly sworn, states,—Am an elected guardian of Dunfanaghy Union, and reside in the town of Dunfanaghy. As far as I know of the present state and future prospects of the peasantry of the union, I am of opinion the people are as well off this year, if not better, than they have been for some years past. I have not seen the slightest appearance of any case of real destitution in the town of Dunfanaghy.

Thos. M'Lean.

Sworn before me,

(signed) *R. Hamilton,*

22d February 1858.

Thomas Ingram, being duly sworn, states,—I am elected guardian of Dunfanaghy Union, and am a land agent.

I am thoroughly acquainted with the condition of the peasantry in the portion of the union I am connected with between Dunfanaghy and Creeslough. The condition of the people is decidedly better this year than I ever recollect; their potato crop was most abundant, and the oat crop excellent. I have not observed a single case of destitution, and the clothing of the people is decidedly better than it has been for some time past.

Sworn before me, this 22d February 1858,

(signed) *R. Hamilton.*

Patrick Coll, being duly sworn, states,—Am clerk of Dunfanaghy Union, and also master of workhouse; have held the situation since 1841; the Board of Guardians have on all occasions freely admitted destitute persons to the workhouse. It is two years since an applicant was refused relief.

It appears there have been but 27 applications for relief since last harvest, and they were all admitted.

There have been no applications latterly by destitute poor people for provisional relief at the workhouse.

If distress, such as described in the appeal I have read, existed in the Gweedore and Cloughaneely district, I am satisfied the people would seek relief in the workhouse, as they did during the famine years; larger numbers applied for relief from that part of the union during the famine than from any other part of it. As far as my knowledge extends, I think the present condition and future prospects of the peasantry are better this year than for some time past. I think the country is improving.

The dietary table now handed to you is the one at present in use, and I have every reason to believe that the quality of provisions allowed is quite sufficient for the respective classes.

Patrick Coll,
Clerk, &c. of Dunfanaghy Union.

Sworn before me, this 22d February 1858,

R. Hamilton.

James Friel, being duly sworn, states,—Am relieving officer for Dunfanaghy Union; have held the situation since 1847.

I am not aware of there being any extraordinary urgent distress in the Union at the present time.

I think a large number of people could not be subsisting on seaweed and such matter without my knowledge. It is about six or seven weeks since I visited Gweedore and Cloughaneely districts. On that occasion I saw no extraordinary distress; no application was made to me for relief; I saw a few beggars, but they would not go into the poor-house. On my oath I did not see the least appearance of anything approaching to actual want.

The people in the Gweedore district were always poor looking, but I do not think they are as bad looking this year as they have been in former years. I was relieving officer during the famine years. The applications for relief from the Gweedore district were very numerous at that time. I have been in nearly all the houses, and there is great improvement as compared with former times. I have known the Gweedore district for more than 20 years, and the peasantry have been generally poor throughout the whole period. From all I know or could see, I believe the people never were better off than they are this year.

I take all applications for relief, and bring the cases before the Board of Guardians. I never knew the guardians refuse relief to any person entitled to it.

The

The people in the Gweedore district were never well clothed. I have known people in that locality, with three or four cows, would not have a shilling's worth of clothes on them.

I think the clothing of the peasantry in that neighbourhood is no criterion as to their real circumstances.

From all I have heard and seen, I believe the potato crop of last year was abundant, and the supply of provisions in the union sufficient.

James Friel.

Sworn before me, this 23d February 1858,

R. Hamilton.

Daniel Gallagher, being duly sworn, states,—I have been collector of poor-rates for the divisions of Crossroads, Dunlewy, Magheraclogher, Meenaclady, and Gortahork, since the year 1847, and during that time I have had frequent opportunity of becoming acquainted with the condition of the peasantry in the Gweedore and Cloughaneely districts, particularly in Cloughaneely, as I reside about the centre of it.

I am also county cess collector in Cloughaneely. Since the famine of 1846, I never saw the people better off than they are this year.

The potato crop of last year was most abundant, and in the course of my travels through the district I have not met with any case of destitution.

There are some poor people on Mr. Nixon's property, and I think perhaps their condition is not so good as it has been, but there is nothing like destitution amongst them. I speak of his property in Crossroads division. I do not think there are any families in my district living on seaweed; there are no families living on it, and I never saw the people of Cloughaneely better clothed than they are at present, and the women and children appear to have sufficient covering for their persons.

In the electoral division of Magheraclogher there are 623 occupiers rated under 4*l.*, and only 12 over that sum; and in Meenaclady 282 under 4*l.*, and only five over that sum.

The bedding used by the people is very bad. Mr. Olphert's tenants have good bedding; but the bedding of the people on other estates is not so good. I think the people are worse off for bedding than for anything else.

I accompanied you with head constable Young through the townlands named in the list handed to me (annexed), and I have no hesitation in swearing that it is about the worst or most destitute part of the district.

In the course of the walk I saw no case of real destitution, and in most of the houses visited found cattle and provisions, and the people were as well clothed as they usually are, and, with the exception of two or three children, the people I saw were sufficiently clad. Twenty families could not be subsisting on seaweed in the district without my knowing it.

Daniel Gallagher.

Sworn before me, 24th February 1858,

R. Hamilton.

Jack Gallagher, being duly sworn, states,—I am employed as bailiff on Mr. Olphert's estate; am well acquainted with the condition of the people in Cloughaneely, and I swear that their present condition is as good this year as it has been for some years past, and, as far as I know, I have observed no case of destitution amongst the peasantry, Mr. Olphert's tenants, and I swear that a number of families from it are not subsisting on seaweed crops. The people have more food in their hands than they have had for the last five years.

Last year's crop of potatoes was the best for some time past, and there are quantities of potatoes in the country, and the price of them is 3*d.* a stone at present.

Jack Gallagher.

Sworn before me, 24th February 1858,

R. Hamilton.

John Cruise, being duly sworn, states,—Am sub-inspector of police, and I took charge of the Dunfanaghy district on the 1st of July 1853. Gweedore and Cloughaneely are in my district, and I have been in the habit of visiting those localities twice and sometimes thrice a month, and have had frequent opportunity of becoming thoroughly acquainted with the condition of the peasantry; and from all I have seen and heard from the men under my command, I am of opinion that their present condition (considering the large sums of money levied from them) is as good, if not better, than it has been since I came to the district in 1853.

In my visits, particularly in 1856 and 1857, and up to the present time, I have had personal knowledge of almost every family in the Gweedore and Cloughaneely districts, and decidedly no real case of destitution has come under my knowledge; and I am satisfied, if real destitution existed, it must have come under my notice. I considered the people of those localities to have been in greater distress in the summer of 1856 than they were at any time since I had charge of the district.

Appendix, No. 1.

The people appear to be, generally speaking, warmly clothed, with some exceptions; but their persons do not present a clean or tidy appearance, and, except in a few instances, the females do not wear shoes.

I can conscientiously swear, that instead of 800 families subsisting on seaweed crops, and other matters of such description in that locality, I do not believe there is a single family in such circumstances, nor do I think human beings could exist on such food; and, as far as my knowledge goes, I have seen nothing of the kind in the locality referred to, and I am certain it could not have existed there to any extent without in some shape or other coming under my notice.

John F. Cruise.

Sworn before me, 25th February 1858,

R. Hamilton.

John Anderson, being duly sworn, states,—Am county inspector of constabulary for the county of Donegal; have during the last few days been employed making a tour of inspection in the Gweedore portion of the county, and I have passed through some of the most remote parts of the Gweedore and Cloughaneely districts, and I was surprised at this season of the year to see so much appearance of provisions about the dwellings of the people, and I was also surprised to see the peasantry looking so comfortable. In the course of my drives, I did not meet with a single case of destitution, and I did not see a single beggar. I made particular inquiries at the several police barracks if any destitution existed in the locality, and at each place was informed there was nothing of the kind.

John Anderson, Co. Inspector, Donegal.

Sworn before me, 25th February 1858,

R. Hamilton.

John Edward Dyer, being duly sworn, states,—I was formerly a captain in the 3d Light Dragoons. I took the shooting on Mr. Olphert's in July last, and I came to the Gweedore Hotel in the middle of August, and have resided there ever since, and during that period I have been constantly through the electoral divisions of Dunlewy, Gortahork, Meenaclady and Magheraclogher, and have observed the condition of the peasantry in those divisions. When I first arrived, I was much struck by the superior appearance of the people as compared with the people of the same class in the County Kerry, where I had been residing for the last five years. I have also been shooting in Mayo and Galway, and I think the peasantry in this neighbourhood are better clothed, and more comfortable looking, than the peasantry in Erris, Connemara, and other parts of Galway. It is not more than two years since I have been in that part of the country.

In the whole course of my walks (and I have been out every day I could get out) I have not met with a single case of real destitution; and during the whole time I have been at the Gweedore Hotel, I have not seen more than three or four beggars, and they appeared to be regular trampers.

If destitution existed to any extent in the divisions I have mentioned, I am satisfied I would have observed it. The people never asked me for alms as I passed through the villages.

J. E. Dyer.

Sworn before me, 25th February 1858,

R. Hamilton.

William Young, being duly sworn, states,—Am head constable of police, and have been in charge of the Gweedore station for the last seven years.

As no collector could be found, I was appointed by the Government to collect the tax levied for extra police in 1857, which extra force was sent to the district in consequence of the malicious destruction of the Scotch sheep, the property of settlers who had taken the grazing of the mountains on the estates of Lord George Hill, Mr. Olphert, and Mr. Woodhouse. The district on which this tax was levied is principally in Meenaclady and Magheraclogher electoral divisions; it was also levied on some townlands in Dunlewy division.

There has only been one levy of police tax, amounting to 811 *l.*, and every farthing of this sum has been collected, except 16 *s.* 9 *d.* At the commencement I had to distrain cattle in great numbers, but afterwards the money was paid freely.

In addition to the tax assessed for extra police, a tax was assessed for the malicious destruction of sheep, and I was appointed to collect that tax in addition to the police tax.

The amount of the sheep tax on Magheraclogher electoral division was—

About - - - - - -	£.	864	12 7
On Meenaclady - - - -		289	18 9
On Gortahork (one townland) -		35	4 –
Total - -	£.	1,189	15 4

Thus making a total sum of about 2,000 *l.* to be levied off this portion of my district.

I expect

Appendix, No. 1.

I expect I shall get all the sheep tax (except about 15 *l.*) before the coming assizes. In the course of collecting this money, I have been obliged to visit the people, and for the past 14 years I have known the peasantry in the Gweedore district, and have had frequent opportunities of becoming thoroughly acquainted with their circumstances, and I have no hesitation in saying that their present condition is as good as I ever saw it. The supply of potatoes amongst them is abundant, much better than it has been for a number of years, and the oat crop was also a fair crop.

The sheep tax was paid to me freely; I had scarcely to distrain any cattle; the money was brought to the barracks to me.

I do not know a family in the whole of my district in real want. There is not a family, to my knowledge, living on seaweed. The clothing of the people is certainly not worse this year; and I have never observed a person in Gweedore without sufficient covering on them. I have read the appeal made by the Roman-catholic clergymen, and I am satisfied there is no ground for representation of distress contained in that document. I am quite satisfied there is no destitution at all in Gweedore.

I accompanied you through the houses on the townlands named on the sheet handed to you (annexed),* and I can swear that those townlands are about the poorest in my district. We visited all the poorest looking houses, and in nearly every instance found cattle and provisions, and saw no case of destitution.

*Ardnagappary.
Magheraclogher.
Magheragolleen.
Derrybeg.
Stranacorcragh.
Lunniagh.
Carrick.
Strameekilmartin.
Bunbeg.
Knockastoler.
Dore.
Arduns.
Meenderygample.

Heard you ask Daniel M'Bride if he knew any family in the district who were living on seaweed; and though he admitted he was thoroughly acquainted with the condition of the people, he said he did not know any family at the present time.

Throughout all the potato fields there were abundance of pits still out, and in places far remote from any residence. In one or two instances, when the pits were opened, the potatoes looked sound and good.

In the course of collecting the cess I have got notes nearly covered with soot, and sovereigns and silver black, which money must evidently have been lying past for a long time. In nearly all cases in the district the cows and horses are kept in the same apartment as that occupied by the inhabitants, and the manure is allowed to accumulate into large heaps. In some of the houses visited to-day it was about four feet deep, and this is by no means an unusual thing.

The bedding of the people is certainly of a very inferior description, but I do not consider that to be any criterion of their condition. I know people well able to purchase good bedding whose present bedding is of a very inferior description. I do not recollect seeing any family without some sort of a bed.

I know Mulligal, whose children you pointed out to me as looking destitute, and I know that he has provision plenty, both potatoes and oats. His present wife is stepmother to the children alluded to, and that circumstance may account for their neglected appearance.

I mentioned this family in my Report.—*R. H.*

No sickness at all exists amongst the peasantry; the people are healthy and well-looking.

William Young, Head Constable.

Sworn before me, this 24th February 1858,

R. Hamilton,
Poor Law Inspector.

William Robinson, being duly sworn,—Am an elected guardian of Dunfanaghy Union, and have been employed for the last 16 or 17 years as agriculturist and general manager on Lord George Hill's estate. I am a native of Scotland.

I am thoroughly acquainted with the condition of the peasantry in Gweedore district.

I consider that the people generally are in better circumstances this year than they have been any year since I came to Gweedore.

I am of opinion there are more provisions and more cattle amongst them than I remember at any other time.

I swear that there is no destitution whatever amongst them. I have read the appeal now handed to me, and signed by the Roman-catholic clergymen; and as regards the statement of distress amongst the people, I swear there are no grounds whatever for the statements, and that there are no families in the neighbourhood without wholesome food.

The clothing of the people is as good this year as it generally is; if anything, I think it is better. I have not seen any one without proper covering. I have direction from Lord George Hill to give bedding and flannel to any of the tenants requiring it; but no applications have been made to me for anything this year, and this is the first year that I had no application made to me. In other years the people applied to me for clothing, &c.; but there was no application this year.

I have also direction from Lord George Hill to give employment to any of the people at remunerative wages by task-work. A man could earn, at any job I have set, from 1 *s.* to 1 *s.* 6 *d.* a day. No one has asked for work this year; but I am well aware there are numbers of able-bodied men in the neighbourhood, but no one works at this time of the year. They commence work on their farms about the 17th of March; and after the crop is in the ground, they employ themselves burning kelp, and at the shore during the summer, and in harvest numbers of them go to England and Scotland. Large sums of money are earned by the burning of kelp; it is a source of very remunerative employment. Last year was a most favourable year for kelp burning, and the price obtained for it was much higher than usual, about from 5 *l.* 10 *s.* to 6 *l.* 10 *s.* a ton.

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I pay about from 500 *l.* to 600 *l.* yearly to the people on Lord George Hill's estate for worsted stockings, which are knit by the women.

As far as I know, there is no meal selling in the district; the people are living on potatoes.

During the winter months the male population remain in a state of idleness; they seldom or ever work on their land.

Since I came here the rents never were so well paid by the tenants as this year. The holdings are very small; but if the people were industrious, I have no doubt they could all support themselves.

William Robertson.

Sworn before me, 24th February 1858,

R. Hamilton.

Sic orig.

I was present at the digging out of the sheep from the holes they put into, and there can be no doubt whatever but that they were maliciously destroyed.

W. R.

John M'Auley, being duly sworn, states,—I reside at Letterkenny, and am a guardian of that union. I have been in the habit of constantly visiting the district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely for the last 28 years, and I am well acquainted with the condition of the peasantry before Lord George Hill came to the country. I have been down there twice during the last three weeks, and from what I saw am satisfied the people are as well off as they ever were, and I am quite sure they are much better off for clothing and bedding than they were when Lord George Hill purchased the property.

Sworn before me, 26th day of February,

R. Hamilton.

I was employed as auctioneer to sell a part cargo of herrings at Burton Port within the last three weeks, and all the herrings were sold at once to the people, and paid for, and there was received from them upwards of 500 *l.* in cash; and I do think I could have sold four times as much, and am satisfied, from the description of purchasers, they were sold for the use of the people, and I believe they will be consumed in that locality.

John M'Auley.

DUNFANAGHY UNION.

DIETARY for Healthy Inmates of Workhouse, 23d February 1858.

Number of Class.	CLASSES.	BREAKFAST.	DINNER OF		SUPPER.	TOTAL MEAL and MILK per day.
			Meal, &c.	Potatoes, &c.		
1.	Able-bodied working males	6 oz. meal and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	8 oz. meal and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	3 ½ lbs. potatoes and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	5 oz. meal and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	19 oz. meal and 1 qt. buttermilk.
2.	Able-bodied working females.	6 oz. meal and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	7 oz. meal and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	3½ lbs. potatoes and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	5 oz. meal and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	18 oz. meal and 1 qt. buttermilk.
3.	Aged and infirm, and persons above 15, not working.	5 oz. meal and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	7 oz. meal and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	3 lbs. potatoes and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	4 oz. meal and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	16 oz. meal and 1 qt. buttermilk.
4.	Boys and girls above 9 and under 15.	5 oz. meal and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	6 oz. meal and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	2½ lbs. potatoes and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	4 oz. meal and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	15 oz. meal and 1 qt. buttermilk.
5.	Children above 5 and under 9.	4 oz. meal and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	5 oz. meal and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	1½ lbs. potatoes and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	3 oz. meal and ⅓ qt. buttermilk.	12 oz. meal and 1 qt. buttermilk.
6.	Children above 2 and under 5.	3 oz. meal and ¼ qt. sweet milk.	5 oz. meal and ¼ qt. sweet milk.	1¾ lbs. potatoes and ¼ qt. sweet milk.	2 oz. meal and ¼ qt. sweet milk.	10 oz. meal and ¾ qt. sweet milk.
7.	Infants under 2 years -	4 oz. meal, 4 oz. bread, and 1 pint of sweet milk daily.				

The quantity of meal is to consist of ⅓ oatmeal and ⅔ Indian meal.

Patrick Coll, Clerk of Union.

(No. 5279, of 1858.)

No. 7.—Letter from the Commissioners to the Board of Guardians.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
Sir, 1 March 1858.

The Commissioners for administering the laws for relief of the poor in Ireland desire to inform the guardians of Dunfanaghy Union, in reference to their resolution of the 16th February last, that the Commissioners have now received Mr. Hamilton's report of the result of the inquiry which he was directed by the Commissioners to make into the state of the Gweedore and Cloughaneely districts, together with the evidence which he took on oath in the course of that inquiry.

Mr. Hamilton examined various witnesses who were conversant with the state of the districts, including four elected guardians of the union, the master of the workhouse, the relieving officer, the collector of poor-rates, the head constable of police at Crossroads, the head constable of police at Gweedore, Mr. Cruise, sub-inspector of constabulary of Dunfanaghy district, and Mr. Anderson, the county inspector for Donegal.

Mr. Hamilton also personally visited and inspected the dwellings of a great number of the poorest residents in those parts of the Gweedore district which were pointed out to him as containing the worst circumstanced part of the population, by head constable Young and collector Gallagher, who accompanied him in that visitation.

The Commissioners are glad to be enabled to inform the guardians that their resolution denying the truth of certain published statements, alleging that distress exists in the Gweedore and Cloughaneely districts, is fully borne out by Mr. Hamilton's report, and the evidence accompanying it.

The Commissioner will forward in due course a copy of the minutes of evidence, for the information of the guardians; but they think it important to lose no time in stating that all the evidence concurs in representing the condition of the peasantry in Gweedore and Cloughaneely as far better at present than at any time since the period of the famine, and that no apprehension whatever exists in the locality of any person suffering from want of the common necessaries of life.

On the contrary, it appears that, notwithstanding the severe tax lately levied on the district, the rents and the ordinary taxes have been punctually and exactly paid, and that a greater abundance of provisions was never observed about the dwellings of the inhabitants at this period of the year; that there is a remarkable absence not only of applications for public relief and private charity, but even of applications for employment; and, finally, that the district is in a good sanitary state, the amount of disease, according to the medical officer's report, being much less than in former years at this season.

By order, &c.

(signed) *B. Banks*, Chief Clerk.

To the Clerk Dunfanaghy Union.

(No. 5539, 1858.)

No. 8.—Extract from Minutes of Proceedings of the Board of Guardians of 2d March 1858.

Read letter from the Poor Law Commissioners, dated 22d February 1858, No. 4471, 1858, having reference to a resolution of the Board of Guardians of the 16th February 1858, requesting the Commissioners to institute an inquiry into the alleged state of destitution in Gweedore.

Letter from same of the 1st instant, No. 5279, 1858, relating to and commenting on the result of Mr. Hamilton's report on the alleged destitution in the districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely.

Letter from the Rev. John Doherty, P. P., of Rossguill, parish of Meevagh, as Honorary Secretary of the Committee of the Gweedore and Cloughaneely Relief fund, requesting to be furnished with the names of the guardians who composed the Board on the 16th of February last, and a copy of the minutes of that day's proceedings.

Ordered,—That the clerk refer Mr. Doherty to the Poor Law Commissioners for the information wanted.

Appendix, No. 1.

(No. 5279, 1858.)

No. 9.—Letter from the Commissioners to the Board of Guardians.

Poor Law Commission Office,
Dublin, 6 March 1858.

Sir,

With reference to that part of the letter addressed to you on the 1st instant, in which it was stated that a copy of the evidence taken by Mr. Hamilton on his recent inquiry into the state of the Gweedore and Cloughaneely districts, would be forwarded in due course, the Commissioners for administering the laws for relief of the poor in Ireland now forward to you, to be laid before the Board of Guardians of Dunfanaghy Union, a copy of the evidence referred to.*

By order, &c.

To the Clerk Dunfanaghy Union. (signed) *B. Banks*, Chief Clerk.

* *See* No. 6.

Appendix, No. 2.

Appendix, No. 2.

RETURNS of the Number of Persons relieved in the Workhouse of the Dunfanaghy Union; distinguishing the Number chargeable to the Electoral Divisions comprised in the District of *Gweedore* and *Cloughaneely*, during each Half-year from the 25th day of March 1848 to the 25th day of March 1858: Of the Number of Cases of Sickness attended by the Medical Officers of Dispensary Districts of the said Union, since the passing of the Medical Charities Act; distinguishing the District of *Gweedore* and *Cloughaneely:* Of the Poundage of the Rates made on each Electoral Division of the said Union; distinguishing the Divisions comprised in the District of *Gweedore* and *Cloughaneely*, in each Year, ended the 31st day of December, from 1848 to 1857, both inclusive: And, of the Sums expended in the said District of *Gweedore* and *Cloughaneely*, under the Labour Rate or Temporary Relief Acts.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, June 1858. *B. Banks*, Chief Clerk.

NOTE.

The District of Gweedore is not recognised on any map or other official document in the office; and although the District of Cloughaneely is named on the Ordnance Survey Maps, no boundary is shown; they are, however, believed to comprise the Parishes of Tullaghobegly and Raymunterdoney, which include the Electoral Divisions of Meenacladdy, Magheraclogher, Gortahork, the greater part of the Electoral Divisions of Dunlewy and Crossroads, and a small portion of the Electoral Division of Dunfanaghy.

The portion of this district to which the levy of the special taxes extended appears by Papers presented to the House of Commons on the 16th March last, No. 198, to comprise the Electoral Divisions of Meenacladdy, Magheraclogher, Dunlewy, and one townland in the Electoral Division of Gortahork.

The annexed Statistics relate to the entire Union of Dunfanaghy, a single line being drawn under the names of those divisions comprised in the district popularly known as Gweedore and Cloughaneely, and a second line under those divisions to which the special tax extended.

LIST of Tables annexed.

No. 1. Statement of Number of Persons relieved in Dunfanaghy Workhouse during each Half-year from 25th March 1848.
2. Statement of Number of Cases of Sickness attended by Medical Officers of Dispensary Districts.
3. Statement showing the Poundage of Rates made on each Electoral Division of Dunfanaghy Union in each Year ended 31st December 1848 to 1857.
4. Statement of Expenditure under the Labour Rate Act.
5. Statement of Number of Persons relieved, and Amount expended, under Temporary Relief Act, in Dunfanaghy Union.

DUNFANAGHY UNION.

No. 1.—STATEMENT showing the Number of Persons Relieved in the Workhouse during each Half-year, from 25th March 1848.

NAMES of ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Half-year ended 25 March 1848.	Half-year ended 29 Sept. 1848.	Half-year ended 25 March 1849.	Half-year ended 29 Sept. 1849.	Half-year ended 25 March 1850.	Half-year ended 29 Sept. 1850.	Half-year ended 25 March 1851.	Half-year ended 29 Sept. 1851.	Half-year ended 25 March 1852.	Half-year ended 29 Sept. 1852.	Half-year ended 25 March 1853.	Half-year ended 29 Sept. 1853.	Half-year ended 25 March 1854.	Half-year ended 29 Sept. 1854.	Half-year ended 25 March 1855.	Half-year ended 29 Sept. 1855.	Half-year ended 25 March 1856.	Half-year ended 29 Sept. 1856.	Half-year ended 25 March 1857.	Half-year ended 29 Sept. 1857.	Half-year ended 25 March 1858.
Meenacladdy	26	21	26	16	–	3	4	19	2	1	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	1	2	–	–
Magheraclogher	24	35	97	117	35	26	14	24	14	11	4	1	1	1	5	7	3	1	2	2	–
Gortahork	60	36	13	14	4	2	5	2	3	1	–	–	1	–	1	6	1	–	–	–	1
Dunlewy	94	50	25	46	16	19	10	19	17	13	9	4	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2
Crossroads	173	103	48	83	35	43	27	61	54	37	16	9	13	9	10	19	11	13	10	2	4
Dunfanaghy	90	91	48	67	39	46	39	33	19	20	11	18	13	12	15	14	16	24	19	11	8
Ards	24	45	31	47	34	27	26	29	10	7	4	3	2	1	2	–	–	–	–	1	1
Creenasmear	26	34	17	41	38	28	23	35	44	33	16	12	11	8	11	18	9	12	7	11	7
Creeslough	81	85	48	69	62	68	41	52	29	19	19	21	5	7	7	9	8	7	6	5	3
Doe Castle	6	9	5	10	4	4	6	5	4	5	4	5	9	11	11	13	12	13	2	2	8
Union at large	105	111	97	151	87	58	59	36	31	23	12	22	14	8	17	20	29	13	9	14	13
Total	709	20	455	661	354	324	254	315	227	170	95	97	71	58	80	108	90	85	58	49	46

No Out-door Relief given during the above periods.

No. 2.—Number of Cases of Sickness attended by Medical Officers of Dispensary Districts.

Names of Dispensary Districts.	From 18th March 1852 to 29th September 1852.	Year ended 30th September 1853.			Year ended 30th September 1854.			Year ended 30th September 1855.			Year ended 30th September 1856.			Year ended 30th September 1857.			Half-year ended 31st March 1858.		
	At Dispensary, or at Patients' Homes.	Dispensary Tickets.	Visiting Tickets.	Total.	Dispensary Tickets.	Visiting Tickets.	Total.	Dispensary Tickets.	Visiting Tickets.	Total.	Dispensary Tickets.	Visiting Tickets.	Total.	Dispensary Tickets.	Visiting Tickets.	Total.	Dispensary Tickets.	Visiting Tickets.	Total.
Dunfanaghy - -	323	418	124	542	515	80	595	564	117	681	461	137	598	392	154	546	Return not received.		
Crossroads * - -	690	674	141	815	677	117	794	708	148	856	717	147	864	588	147	735	284	67	351
Total Union -	1,013	1,092	265	1,357	1,192	197	1,389	1,272	265	1,537	1,178	284	1,462	980	301	1,281	—	—	—

* This is the Dispensary District, which includes Gweedore and Cloughaneely. The population of the two districts is as follows:

Dunfanaghy - - - - - - - - - -	6,281
Crossroads - - - - - - - - - -	11,039
Total of the Union - - - -	17,320

DUNFANAGHY UNION.

No. 3.—STATEMENT showing the POUNDAGE of RATES made on each ELECTORAL DIVISION of the above UNION in each Year ended 31st December, from 1848 to 1857, inclusive.

NAME of ELECTORAL DIVISION.	1848.		1849.		1850.		1851.		1852.		1853.		1854.		1855.		1856.		1857.	
	Date of making Rate.	Poundage.	Date of making Rate.	Poundage.	Date of making Rate.	Poundage.	Date of making Rate.	Poundage.	Date of making Rate.	Poundage.	Date of making Rate.	Poundage.	Date of making Rate.	Poundage.	Date of making Rate.	Poundage.	Date of making Rate.	Poundage.	Date of making Rate.	Poundage.
	1848:	s. d.	1849:	s. d.	1850:	s. d.	1851:	s. d.	1852:	s. d.	1853:	s. d.			1855:	s. d.	1856:	s. d.	1857:	s. d.
Meenacladdy	29 Feb.	– 6	4 Dec.	2 6	3 Dec.	– –	30 Dec.	1 8	21 Dec.	1 3	27 Dec.	1 3	– –	– –	2 Jan.	1 –	7 Oct.	1 4	20 Oct.	1 4
	12 Dec.	2 –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	30 Oct.	– 6				
Magheraclogher	29 Feb.	– 9	4 Dec.	3 –	3 Dec.	1 8	30 Dec.	1 8	21 Dec.	1 3	27 Dec.	1 3	– –	– –	2 Jan.	1 6	7 Oct.	1 4	20 Oct.	1 4
	12 Dec.	1 8	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	30 Oct.	1 8				
Gortahork	29 Feb.	– 6	4 Dec.	2 –	3 Dec.	– –	30 Dec.	1 3	21 Dec.	– 6	27 Dec.	1 3	– –	– –	2 Jan.	1 –	7 Oct.	1 –	20 Oct.	1 4
	12 Dec.	1 6	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	30 Oct.	1 –				
Dunlewy	29 Feb.	2 9	4 Dec.	3 6	3 Dec.	1 8	30 Dec.	1 6	21 Dec.	1 6	27 Dec.	1 3	– –	– –	2 Jan.	1 –	7 Oct.	1 4	20 Oct.	1 4
	12 Dec.	3 –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	30 Oct.	– 9				
Crossroads	29 Feb.	3 –	4 Dec.	2 6	3 Dec.	1 3	30 Dec.	1 8	21 Dec.	1 6	27 Dec.	1 –	– –	– –	2 Jan.	1 –	7 Oct.	1 6	20 Oct.	1 4
	12 Dec.	2 –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	30 Oct.	1 6				
Dunfanaghy	29 Feb.	2 –	4 Dec.	3 –	3 Dec.	1 8	30 Dec.	1 8	21 Dec.	1 6	27 Dec.	1 –	– –	– –	2 Jan.	1 –	7 Oct.	1 6	20 Oct.	1 6
	12 Dec.	2 6	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	30 Oct.	1 6				
Ards	29 Feb.	– 6	4 Dec.	2 6	3 Dec.	1 8	30 Dec.	1 10	21 Dec.	1 6	27 Dec.	1 –	– –	– –	2 Jan.	1 –	7 Oct.	1 –	20 Oct.	1 –
	12 Dec.	1 9	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	30 Oct.	1 –				
Creenasmear	29 Feb.	3 –	4 Dec.	3 –	3 Dec.	2 6	30 Dec.	3 6	21 Dec.	3 4	27 Dec.	2 –	– –	– –	2 Jan.	2 6	7 Oct.	2 4	20 Oct.	2 –
	12 Dec.	2 6	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	30 Oct.	2 –				
Creeslough	29 Feb.	3 –	4 Dec.	3 6	3 Dec.	4 2	30 Dec.	3 9	21 Dec.	3 –	27 Dec.	1 6	– –	– –	2 Jan.	1 3	7 Oct.	1 6	20 Oct.	1 6
	12 Dec.	3 –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	30 Oct.	1 8				
Doe Castle	29 Feb.	2 –	4 Dec.	2 6	3 Dec.	1 3	30 Dec.	1 8	21 Dec.	1 3	27 Dec.	1 3	– –	– –	2 Jan.	1 8	7 Oct.	2 6	20 Oct.	2 –
	12 Dec.	1 6	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	30 Oct.	3 –				

No. 4.—EXPENDITURE under the Labour Rate Act.

The sum expended under the Labour Rate Acts, in the Barony of Kilmacrenan, in which the Dunfanaghy Union is comprised, appears by Parliamentary Returns* to have been £. 21,255.

There are no means in this Office of ascertaining whether any portion of this sum was expended in Gweedore and Cloughaneely districts; but the proportion with which Dunfanaghy Union would have been chargeable according to net annual value, is estimated to be 3,910 *l.*, and the proportion with which Gweedore and Cloughaneely districts would have been chargeable by the same rule, is estimated to be 990 *l.*

* *See* Report of Select Committee of the House of Lords on Consolidated Annuities, Sess. 1852 (64.) Appendix (G.)

DUNFANAGHY UNION.

No. 5.—STATEMENT of the Number of Persons Relieved and the Amount Expended under the Temporary Relief Act (extracted from the Supplementary Appendix to the Seventh Report of the Relief Commissioners, presented to Parliament in 1847).

No.	NAME of ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Estimated Area in Statute Acres.	Net Annual Value, according to Poor Law Valuation.	Population in 1841.	Maximum or highest Number of Persons supplied with Food in any One Day.	Number of Persons on the Relief Lists when the Supply of Rations ceased.	Period of Relief. From	Period of Relief. To	Rating in the Pound upon the Amount to be Repaid.	Amount of Loans advanced on Credit of Rates to be Repaid.	Amount of Grant in Aid of Rates.	Amount of Donations in Aid of Subscriptions.	Total Amount advanced for Relief Purposes.	Amount of Grant in Aid of Rates for Fever Hospitals.	Total Amount advanced by Relief Commissioners.	REMARKS.
			£. s. d.						s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
1	Dunfanaghy	9,600	2,245 13 –	2,343	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	– Not under Act.
2	Ards	5,276	1,632 – –	1,444	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
3	Creensamear	8,487	617 12 –	1,145	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
4	Creeslough	5,372	794 19 –	1,653	860	697	3 May	15 Aug.	2 10½	113 – –	14 – –	–	127 – –	–	127 – –	
5	Crossroads	23,631	2,029 11 –	3,239	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	– Not under Act.
6	Doe Castle	3,627	586 10 –	792	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
7	Dunlewy	23,759	622 3 –	1,440	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
8	Gortahork	13,964	741 4 –	2,401	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
9	Magheraclogher	24,473	867 – 8	2,626	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
10	Meenacladdy	10,091	386 17 –	1,488	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
	Total	128,220	10,543 9 8	18,571	860	697	–	–	–	113 – –	14 – –	–	127 – –	–	127 – –	

It will be seen from the above that the Temporary Relief Act was not in force in any part of Gweedore and Cloughaneely districts; the only electoral division of the Union to which advances were made not being comprised in those districts.

Appendix, No. 3.

PAPER delivered in by Mr. *John Browne*, 10 June 1858.

LIST of Persons visited in the Districts of *Gweedore* and *Cloughaneely*, and who are, for the most part, in a state of Destitution, described in my Evidence. A cross distinguishes those who have not Land from those who have. By those who have no land I mean those who told me that they paid no rent.

Lower Keeldrum. Landlord, *W. Olpherts.*

1. James M'Fadden - land
2. Hugh Cannon - „
3. James M'Fadden - „
4. Michael Curran - „
5. Paddy M'Ginley - „
6. Michael Carrol - „
7. Hannah Boyle - „
8. Margaret Green - „
9. Daniel Hanlon - „
10. Fanny Green - „
11. Widow Rodgers - „
12. Shan Martin - „
13. Charles M'Grenra - „
14. Shemus Heraghty - „
15. John M'Fadden - „
16. Manus Curran - „
17. William Ferry - „
18. Daniel Doherty - „
19. Hugh Doohan - „
20. Patrick Doogan - „
21. Owen Doogan - „
22. Denis Cullum - land
23. John Ferry - no land +
24. Daniel Martin - land
25. Neal Duggan - „
26. Owen M'Gowan - „
27. Patrick Martin - „
28. Shan Doogan - „
29. Edward Curran - „
30. James Gallagher - „
31. Edward M'Grenra - no land +
32. Nelly Sheil - „ +
33. Hugh Sweeny - „ +
34. Hugh Ferry - land
35. Michael M'Gaidee - „
36. Hugh M'Elroy - „
37. Francis Doohan, Fannabuy - „
38. James Ferry - ditto - „
39. Peggy M'Glenchy ditto - „
40. Nelly Boyce, Bedlam - no land +
41. Michael Whoriskey - land

Estate of Lord *George Hill.*

1. Hugh Gallagher, Meenanillar { no rent + a labourer (but lately he has got a new cut)
2. Jack Gallagher, Meenanillar, has land
3. Owen Harley - ditto - no land +
4. Denis Craig, Stranacorkaragh - land
5. Bridget M'Bride, Middleton - „
6. Michael M'Bride - ditto - „
7. John Gallagher - ditto - „
8. Paddy M'Elwain - Dore - „
9. Catherine Sweeny - ditto - no land +
10. Widow M'Cole - ditto - land
11. Daniel M'Gee - ditto - „
12. Cornelius Ferry - ditto - „
13. Charles M'Gee - ditto - „
14. Paddy O'Donnell - ditto - „
15. Frank Gallagher - ditto - „
16. Pat Gallagher - ditto - „
17. Grace Gallagher - ditto - „
18. Mick M'Monagle - ditto - „
19. Michael M'Monagle, ditto - „
20. Edward Gallagher - ditto - „
21. Widow Gallagher - ditto - „
22. Margery M'Gee - ditto - „
23. Daniel O'Donnell - ditto - „
24. Widow Rodgers - ditto - „
25. Anthony Rodgers - ditto - no rent +
26. Catherine O'Donnell, Dore - land
27. Margery Coll - - ditto - „
28. Tole Coll - - ditto - „
29. Manus O'Donnell - ditto - „
30. James M'Bride - ditto - „
31. Margery Gallagher - ditto - „
32. Shan Gallagher - ditto - „
33. Widow Doogan - ditto - „
34. Widow M'Bride, Knockactoller „
35. Dolty Gallagher - ditto no land +
36. Conal Gallagher - ditto - land
37. Daniel Gallagher, Meenadreen „
38. Charles Doherty - ditto - „
39. Michael Ferry - ditto - „
40. Michael M'Ginley, Magheralosk „
41. Catherine Doherty - ditto - „
42. Owen Doherty - ditto - „
43. William Doherty - ditto - „
44. Hugh Sweeny - - ditto - „
45. Hugh Connauglan - ditto - „
46. Roger M'Gee - - ditto - „
47. Bryan Boyle - - ditto - „
48. Charles Gallagher, Meenaduff - „
49. Maurice Coll - ditto - „
50. Paddy M'Cafferty, Carricks - „
51. James M'Geever, Glassaghoo, no land +

Appendix, No. 4.

Appendix, No. 4.

RETURN showing the Number and Description of Live Stock in the several Baronies of the County of *Donegal*, in each Year from 1847 to 1856 inclusive—taken from the Annual Reports presented to Parliament.

BARONIES.	Years.	Horses.	Mules.	Asses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Goats.	Poultry.
Banagh - - -	1847	1,981*	- -	349	14,263	11,616	858	251	19,370
	1848	1,790	12	238	15,407	12,627	1,028	213	25,794
	1849	1,882	14	238	20,398	18,520	2,042	173	28,886
	1850	2,093	26	389	21,970	16,124	2,370	227	34,880
	1851	1,658	10	284	22,826	16,272	2,357	181	38,363
	1852	1,659	19	374	21,882	19,509	1,929	182	37,432
	1853	1,493	19	406	24,522	22,010	2,166	352	43,231
	1854	1,496	7	301	25,789	25,803	3,699	485	46,435
	1855	1,430	14	373	24,438	18,951	3,873	226	43,742
	1856	1,436	20	317	24,873	27,971	2,946	351	44,765
Boylagh - -	1847	1,155	- -	115	9,671	10,581	220	438	15,111
	1848	1,080	10	68	10,090	13,285	517	432	18,257
	1849	1,021	6	71	12,045	15,062	802	346	22,110
	1850	1,140	4	236	14,386	12,853	877	583	21,509
	1851	900	5	154	12,741	9,167	410	648	22,491
	1852	842	9	152	14,326	11,699	509	844	23,506
	1853	813	2	194	14,718	12,260	807	766	28,178
	1854	875	2	245	16,254	13,108	1,328	804	32,591
	1855	896	4	241	16,644	13,842	948	700	28,023
	1856	856	3	280	16,327	14,914	645	731	30,133
Inishowen, East -	1847	4,173*	- -	53	13,731	16,982	1,296	80	24,823
	1848	4,084	5	25	14,884	15,441	1,949	101	32,078
	1849	3,976	2	41	15,226	14,518	2,923	61	32,035
	1850	4,117	6	47	16,932	14,070	4,077	107	35,833
	1851	3,584	- -	79	16,168	10,754	3,276	42	33,988
	1852	3,848	3	85	18,444	12,726	3,654	80	38,694
	1853	4,078	1	50	19,625	15,279	4,798	42	41,894
	1854	4,083	3	46	21,549	18,088	5,193	112	46,943
	1855	4,258	8	58	21,533	16,766	3,359	39	41,951
	1856	4,264	3	53	23,588	26,246	2,205	56	52,423
Inishowen, West -	1847	2,212	- -	34	9,333	7,582	684	127	14,957
	1848	2,209	8	23	9,447	7,051	810	86	17,460
	1849	2,292	6	22	9,938	5,647	1,427	86	18,877
	1850	2,196	8	40	10,432	4,694	1,699	105	19,673
	1851	2,105	11	27	10,441	4,287	1,505	91	19,582
	1852	2,022	15	28	9,495	3,307	1,248	81	20.035
	1853	2,383	9	67	10,775	5,587	2,077	271	22,265
	1854	2,166	5	24	14,159	7,457	2,515	128	22,273
	1855	2,241	6	41	14,496	5,743	1,247	113	23,353
	1856	2,175	9	49	13,306	7,204	507	131	26,749
Kilmacrenan - -	1847	6,870*	- -	242	22,012	18,834	1,903	1,037	38,747
	1848	6,792	66	332	25,215	22,153	3,192	1,231	52,691
	1849	7,132	74	389	30,721	26,987	6,285	1,660	61,888
	1850	7,390	68	426	32,656	27,073	6,562	1,490	64,812
	1851	6,908	65	641	32,815	23,677	4,250	1,583	72,010
	1852	6,771	67	638	31,336	27,190	4,587	1,237	72,046
	1853	6,904	96	706	35,355	27,657	6,628	1,668	86,204
	1854	7,328	45	698	38,257	32,898	7,764	1,833	92,520
	1855	7,327	66	726	37,321	35,858	4,888	1,522	82,506
	1856	7,046	62	747	37,798	39,185	3,485	1,527	86,850
Raphoe - - -	1847	5,595*	- -	89	30,957	11,017	1,735	470	54,917
	1848	6,032	25	97	33,416	8,898	2,268	354	64,948
	1849	6,164	25	82	37,906	9,696	3,777	350	68,381
	1850	6,069	30	61	36,352	8,998	3,586	244	71,768
	1851	5,732	36	57	34,753	8,858	3,228	206	78,879
	1852	5,977	26	92	35,908	9,929	3,381	353	85,022
	1853	5,661	25	56	36,660	10,622	3,501	216	88,066
	1854	6,091	32	152	40,046	21,681	4,534	362	85,051
	1855	6,193	57	120	44,961	19,817	3,709	295	84,961
	1856	6,597	37	80	41,321	16,229	2,778	288	86,884
Tirhugh - - -	1847	1,980*	- -	384	12,818	4,876	872	80	19,049
	1848	2,024	29	378	15,507	5,123	1,668	96	27,895
	1849	2,043	21	467	18,468	5,902	2,873	130	33,324
	1850	1,878	22	407	19,769	5,738	2,856	103	33,848
	1851	1,802	12	360	17,688	5,497	2,329	93	32,598
	1852	1,906	31	407	18,461	7,050	2,423	169	37,530
	1853	1,695	37	401	20,803	7,300	2,629	196	38,956
	1854	1,755	17	551	20,638	9,116	3,139	121	39,938
	1855	1,914	17	456	25,714	14,653	3,795	130	38,667
	1856	2,232	26	516	25,825	16,825	2,700	287	45,608

* Mules are included with horses in 1847.

Appendix, No. 5.

PAPER delivered in by Rev. *J. M'Groarty*, 17 June 1858. Appendix, No. 5.

List of the Townlands, the Houses in each Townland, and the Number of Family in each House visited by me.

	Number of Family.
Townland of Magheraclogher:	
Owen Doherty	9
John Gallagher	5
John Sharkey	5
John Gallagher	6
Daniel M'Bride	5
John Mulligan	4
Hugh O'Donnell	5
Thomas Mulligan	2
John Byrne	2
John Gallagher	3
Thomas Gallagher	6
John Gallagher	2
John Doherty	3
Daniel Doherty	10
Patrick O'Donnell	4
John M'Bride	6
Owen M'Bride	7
James Sweeny	6
Toal Coll	–
Anthony Sweeny	6
Cornelius Peoples	10
Susan Gallagher	1
Saragh Peoples	7
Dolty Gallagher	6
James Boyle	6
John Mulligan	–
Hugh Gallagher	8
Toal Coll	9
Widow Duggan	6
Charles Doherty	5
John Ferry	7
Daniel Harkin	6
Widow Gallagher	3
Cornelius Gallagher	7
Daniel Coll	2
Widow M'Bride	3
Edward Sweeny	6
Francis O'Donnell	7
Widow Boyle	3
Cormick Duggan	2
Shane Gallagher	4
Neil Doherty	10
Roger Gallagher	13
Widow M'Gee	3
Patrick Boyle	4
John Mulligan	9
James Rorty	8

	Number of Family.
Ardanagapparay:	
Widow M'Bride	–
John Duggan	–
John Duggan	7
Bernard M'Bride	8
John Duffy	5
Charles M'Cole	4
Michael Duggan	3
Charles Duffy	3
Andrew Duggan	8
Roger Gallagher	7
Domnick Sweeny	4
John Harkin	7
Widow Duffy	4
Michael Duffy	4
James M'Cole	3
Shane Boner	4
Neil Boner	–
Teague Coll	6
Rose Carroll	–
Patrick Gallagher	5
John M'Cole	–
William Coll	9
John O'Donnell	5
James Gallagher, sen.	3
James Gallagher, jun.	4
Widow Boyle	2
Widow Boner	6
Widow M'Cole	2
Margaret Gallagher	–
Owen Gallagher	3
Widow Duggan	6
Bernard M'Cole	7
Owen M'Garvey	8
Michael M'Bride	5
Bridget M'Bride	1
Magheragallan:	
Widow Gallagher	6
Widow M'Gee	8
Hugh M'Gee	4
Neil O'Donnell	4
Neil O'Donnell, sen.	6
Hugh O'Donnell	9
Patrick Gallagher	3
James Gallagher	8
Widow Sweeny	2
Patrick Mulligan	2
Alexander Gallagher	8
James Diver	6

Appendix, No. 5.

	Number of Family.
Magheragallan—*continued.*	
James Curran	4
Cornelius M'Gee	8
James M'Bride	5
Charles Gallagher	7
DORE, MIDDLE:	
Corneilus Ferry	3
Hugh Duggan	–
Widow M'Cole	2
Manus Boyle	12
Patrick O'Donnell	8
Edward Gallagher	4
Francis Gallagher	7
Grace Gallagher	3
Anthony Gallagher	8
Michael M'Monagle	7
Michael Gallagher	9
Edward Gallagher	5
Susan Gallagher	–
Widow Gallagher	6
Amabia M'Gee	5
Owen Boyle	4
DORE, LOWER:	
Daniel O'Donnell	10
Catharine O'Donnell	2
Widow Coll	5
Widow Rogers	3
Anthony Rogers	4
Francis O'Donnell	8
James O'Donnell	8
Patrick Gallagher	–
Toal Coll	9
Manus O'Donnell	7
Teague M'Fadden	8
Francis O'Donnell	2
James M'Bride	7
Cornelius Gallagher	8
Widow Gallagher	7
Neil O'Donnell	6
John Gallagher	7
Hugh Gallagher	4
Widow Duggan	8
John Duggan	–
Widow Duggan	6
TOWNLAND, MAGHERALOSK:	
Catharine Doherty	4
Hugh Conaghan	9
Hugh Gallagher	5
Michael M'Genley	5
William Doherty	5
Dominick Doherty	7
Shane Gallagher	7
Hugh Sweeny	4
Hugh Conaghan	9
Widow M'Bride	4
MEENADUFF:	
Charles Gallagher	12
James Boyle	–
Michael M'Bride	7
Arthur Doherty	5
Cornelius M'Bride	3
Cornelius Gallagher	8
Moses Coll	10

	Number of Family.
MEENADREEN:	
Daniel Gallagher	7
Charles Doherty	9
Michael Ferry	6
Roger M'Gee	5
Bryan Boyle	7
TOWNLAND, MEENANILLAR:	
Manus Rorty	6
Shane Rorty	4
Neil O'Donnell	–
Shane Coll	3
Alexander M'Cole	10
Bryan Boyle	11
CARRICK:	
Manus Gallagher	4
Edward M'Garvey	4
Michael Gallagher	5
Widow M'Bride	7
MEENACLADDY:	
Michael O'Donnell	3
GLENHOOLA:	
Manus Curran	4
TOWNLAND, SHANROCKLE-MARTIN:	
James Harkin	–
Thomas Mullegan	6
Susan Mullegan	–
Hugh Coll	8
Charles Coll	2
Thomas M'Gee	6
James M'Bride	8
Thomas Mullegan	6
SHANACORCORAGH:	
Catharine Conaghan	–
Peter Duggan	6
Philip Gallagher	5
James M'Ginley	7
Teague M'Ginley	6
Denis M'Gee	6
LUNNIAGH:	
John Boyle	6
Hugh M'Garvey	4
James Coll	4
Winifred Gallagher	–
Daniel Gallagher	3
Catharine Gallagher	3
Francis Coll	3
DUNEMORE:	
Widow Canon	4
Michael M'Carry	5
John Ferry	7
Rose Harkin	6
William M'Monagle	4
George Greer	5
Bridget Sweeny	3
Widow Weer	1

	Number of Family.
Dunemore—*continued.*	
Owen M'Hugh	4
Edward M'Lafferty	7
Thomas M'Sparran	4
Owen M'Casland	6
Charles M'Hugh	9
James M'Casland	9
William M'Monagle	5
Charles M'Lafferty	9
Dominick M'Monagle	5
Hugh Sweeny	4
Denis M'Casland	6
Sarah M'Veigh	6
Townland, Ballyboes:	
Owen Ferry	7
Shane M'Fadden	–
Peter Ferry	5
Mary Ferry	–
John M'Hugh	5
Dominick M'Fadden	–
Townland, Ballyboes—*continued.*	
Widow Duggan	4
John M'Fadden	5
Hugh M'Gee	7
Townland, Balendrate:	
Bryan Heraghty	6
Maurice M'Bride	3
Widow M'Bride	6
Dolty Coll (cotter)	6
Widow M'Bride	5
Michael O'Donnell	9
James M'Bride	9
Owen M'Bride	8
Widow Coll	2
William M'Garvey	8
Michael M'Gee	5
Townland, Cotteen:	
Toal Gallagher	3
Shane Gallagher	2

P. S.—All are tenant farmers, with two or three exceptions.

Appendix, No. 6.

LIST of Houses visited by *William Robertson* on Lord George Hill's Property in company with Mr. *Cruice*, the Stipendiary Magistrate, on the 16th June instant.

Arduns:
James Ferry.
James Boyle.

Upper Dore:
Owen Boyle.
Charles Boyle.
James Boyle.
James Doherty.
Feragh Boyle.
Paddy Boyle.
Paddy Boyle.
Widow Catherine O'Donnell.
Peter Rogers.
Owen Gallaher.
Widow Shela Gallaher.
Daniel M'Gee.
Charles M'Gee.

Middle Dore:
Daniel M'Gee.
Catherine M'Leod.
Frank Gallaher.
Patrick M'Elwean.
Noher Ferry.
Manus Boyle.
Paddy O'Donnell.
Ned Gallaher.
Autan Gallaher.
Grace Gallaher.

Middle Dore—*continued.*
Mickey M'Monigle.
Mickey Gallaher.
Ned Gallaher, sen.
Magey M'Gee.
Peggy Gallaher.

Lower Dore:
Daniel O'Donnell.
Magey Call.
Widow Rogers
Francis O'Donnell.
James O'Donnell.
Toul Call.
Manus O'Donnell.

Meenaduff:
Hugh Gallaher.
Hannah Gallaher.
Noher M'Bride.
Carml. Gallaher.
Morise Call.
Brian Boyle.
Ned Campbel.
Charles Doherty.
Shane M'Garvey.
James M'Garvey.
Thomas M'Bride.
Billy Doherty.

Forty-Nine.

William Robertson.

Appendix, No. 7.

Appendix, No. 7.

RETURN showing the Number of PATIENTS attended at the Dispensaries, and visited at their Residences, during the Years 1846, 1847, 1848, and 1849, by *G. F. Brady*, Medical Officer of the Dungloe and Gweedore Dispensaries.

YEAR.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	TOTAL.
1846 - -	309	196	187	236	145	196	185	149	144	193	152	122	2,212
1847 - -	254	245	390	263	268	196	169	173	74	101	119	98	2,350
1848 - -	142	418	302	411	200	259	216	228	132	121	116	99	2,644
1849 - -	183	106	221	131	197	203	135	137	134	91	144	82	1,764

G. F. Brady,
Late Medical Officer of Dungloe and Gweedore Districts, and now of Crossroads and Gweedore Districts.

A RETURN showing the Number of PATIENTS attended at the Dispensaries, and visited in their Houses, in the Years 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, and Part of 1858, by *G. F. Brady*, Medical Officer of Crossroads Dispensary District, in Dunfanaghy Union.

YEAR.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	TOTAL.
1853 - -	71	90	76	86	65	75	67	62	48	64	59	51	814
1854 - -	56	77	108	71	50	81	57	73	46	68	52	41	780
1855 - -	61	90	47	110	106	60	104	67	50	62	57	60	874
1856 - -	99	91	92	89	61	76	60	68	49	62	55	58	860
1857 - -	58	62	57	82	39	68	74	55	65	44	55	50	709
1858 - -	57	60	85	53	45	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	—

Falcaragh,
5 May 1858.

G. F. Brady,
Medical Officer, Crossroads Dispensary District,
Dunfanaghy Union.

Appendix, No. 8.

Appendix, No. 8.

WE, the undersigned members of the Board of Guardians, present at a meeting this day, 22d February 1858, consider that the state of destitution in the Milford Union is much less than it has been for the last three years; that the supply of provisions is greater, a much larger quantity of oats having been ground into meal and stored up by the farmers this season than for some years past, and the crop of potatoes was good, and is keeping sound.

(signed) *Thomas Butt*, J.P., Rathmullan, Vice-chairman.
John Sproule, J.P., Rathmettas.
Robert Henry Patton, Bosnakill.
George M'Gowan, Rathmullan.
Robert Morrow, Breaky.
Collin Read, Milgokil.
Moses Gregg, Ramelton.
William Boyle, Kilmacrennen.
Robert Stewart, Gartnaskeagh.
Isaac Matson, Loughkeill.
Joseph Dixon, Greenfart, Croaghross.

Appendix, No. 9.

PAPERS delivered in by *Daniel John Cruice*, Esq., 2 July 1858.

COUNTY OF DONEGAL, SUB-DISTRICT OF GWEEDORE.

RETURN, showing the Number and Nature of the several OUTRAGES on the Property of the *Scotch* and *English* Settlers in this District since the Month of February 1857; also, the Destruction of Lord *Hill*'s House at *Tor*, and the Attack and Robbery of the Shepherds at *Tor* and *Alton*. Appendix, No. 9.

No.	Date of Outrage.	Name of Injured Party.	Nature of Outrage.	REMARKS.
1	3 Feb. 1857	Mr. James Hugguss	180 sheep maliciously destroyed.	On the lands of Meenderrygamph.
2	12 Feb. „	Mr. W. Hunter -	42 - ditto - -	On the lands of Kildrum.
3	14 Feb. „	Mr. James Hugguss	60 - ditto - -	On the lands of Meenderrygamph, &c.
4	18 Feb. „	Mr. Joseph Wright	125 - ditto - -	On the lands of Alton.
5	19 Feb. „	Mr. James Hugguss	78 - ditto - -	On the lands of Tor.
6	23 Feb. „	- ditto - -	20 - ditto - -	On the lands of Meenderrygamph, &c.
7	28 Feb. „	Mr. Joseph Wright	87 - ditto - -	On the lands of Alton.
8	18 Mar. „	Mr. James Hugguss	26 - ditto - -	On the lands of Meenacung, &c.
9	24 Mar. „	Mr. William Hunter	24 - ditto - -	On the lands of Kildrum, &c.
10	5 Apr. „	- ditto - -	78 - ditto - -	- - ditto.
11	6 Apr. „	Mr. James Hugguss	12 - ditto - -	On the lands of Meenderrygamph, &c.
12	13 Apr. „	- ditto - -	92 sheep plucked and killed.	On the lands of Tor.
13	16 Apr. „	- ditto - -	16 - ditto - -	On the lands of Meenacung, &c.
14	25 Apr. „	- ditto - -	22 sheep killed and plucked.	On the lands of Tor.
15	12 May „	- ditto - -	7 - ditto - -	On the lands of Meenderrygamph, &c.
16	21 May „	- ditto - -	22 - ditto - -	- - ditto.
17	28 May „	- ditto - -	51 - ditto - -	- - ditto.
18	1 Dec. „	Mr. William Hunter	32 - ditto - -	On the lands of Tor.
19	3 Feb. 1858	- ditto - -	11 - ditto - -	- - ditto.
20	15 Feb. „	- ditto - -	111 sheep maliciously destroyed.	On the lands of Alton.
21	20 Feb. „	- ditto - -	21 - ditto - -	On the lands of Meenderrygamph, &c.
22	6 Mar. „	- ditto - -	9 - ditto - -	On the lands of Tor.
23	22 Apr. „	- ditto - -	25 - ditto - -	On the lands of Alton.
24	23 Apr. „	- ditto - -	30 - ditto - -	On the lands of Meenderrygamph.
25	6 Mar. 1857	- - Lord George Hill and Robert Cowans.	- - Destruction of a new house being erected for a shepherd, and police barrack; also an attack on Cowans, the shepherd, and robbery of his firearms, &c., and orders to leave the country.	On the lands of Tor. A large party of men entered Cowan's house disguised, by night, by breaking open his door.
26	10 Dec. 1856	James Lillico -	- - Housebreaking, and robbery of firearms and watch, &c., and ordered him to leave the country.	On the lands of Alton. A large party of men entered Lillico's house, disguised, by night.

Appendix, No. 9.

List of Persons visited.

Gweedore, 15 June 1858.

Meenacung.

1. Widow Mulligan:
   1 bed; 3 head of cattle; land cropped.
   (Got relief, No. 181.)
2. Connell M'Ginley:
   8 head of cattle; a good house; locked-up land, well cropped.
   (Got relief, 481.)
3. Tom M'Gee:
   His house locked with a padlock.
4. Connell Doogan:
   1 straw bed; 4 head of cattle; a sack of oats.
5. Pat Galagher (or James);
   A large wooden dish of stirabout; but when I went into the house they commenced eating sea-weed.
   (Got relief, 178.)
6. John M'Cool:
   A sack of meal; he said it was his own—that he got none from the relief.
7. James Doogan:
   A shattered house, and appearance of poverty on the mountain attached; 53 head of cattle in good condition; 4 horses and 26 sheep.
   (Got relief, 176.)

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16 June 1858.

Ardun.

8. James Ferry:
   4 milch cows tied in his house; a bed and bed-clothes. This man is in London, one of Mr. Doherty's witnesses.
   (Got relief, 307.)
9. James Boyle:
   Clean house; chairs, bed and dresser in kitchen; 2 beds in room; chest of meal and woollen wheel; 5 cows and 1 horse.
   (Got relief, 308.)

Upper Doore.

10. Peter Rogers:
    1 bed and bedstead; 1 cow; 1 heifer; 1 calf.
    (Got relief, 318.)
11. Pat Boyle:
    2 cows; chairs; bed; dresser; woollen wheel; a room locked.
    (Got relief, 314.)
12. Ned Boyle:
    3 cows; chairs; dresser; bed and other furniture; a room locked; children looking well; a sheep-house and a cow-house, where it appeared cows and sheep had been.
    (Got relief.)
13. Farrig Boyle:
    3 bedsteads and 3 beds, one of them covered with ticken; chairs; table; a number of women's gowns; a quantity of potatoes; 1 chest; 5 cows; 20 sheep.
    (Got relief.)
14. James Doherty:
    3 beds, bedsteads and bed-clothes; a quantity of potatoes; spinning-wheel; a sheep-house; a place for tying 5 cows. When I came into this townland I saw the people drive off several head of cattle, and all appeared to do what they could to conceal any property they had. Lord G. Hill's agriculturist was with me; he told me that he had an account of the number of cattle; each of them had the crops all good.
    (Got relief, No. 319.)
15. John Boyle:
    2 beds and bed-clothes; woollen wheel; potatoes; meal; 1 cow in the house. Mr. Robinson says the man has 2 cows and a heifer.
    (Got relief, 320.)
16. Charley Boyle:
    3 beds and bed-clothes; chairs; dresser; and, I am told, he has 2 cows.
    (Got relief, 316.)
17. James Boyle:
    House locked up, lest I should see it. I am told he has 3 cows, a horse, and sheep.
    (Got relief, 315.)
18. Owen Gallagher:
    This man's house is not more comfortable or better furnished than any of the others, although I am told he is worth 400 *l.*; he sold 200 *l.* worth of meal on credit this year.
19. Widow Galagher:
    Clean house; bed and bedstead; chairs, and dresser.
    (Got relief, 311.)
20. Pat Boyle:
    2 beds and bedsteads; dresser, and chairs. I am told he has 2 cows.
    (Got relief, 314.)
21. Daniel M'Gee:
    A good house; 3 beds; dresser; press and boxes; potatoes; a good quantity of wearing apparel. I am told that he has 5 cows and a horse.
22. James Sweeny:
    1 bed and bedstead; 2 chairs; 1 box; potatoes; 1 cow.
    (Got relief, 323.)

23. Charles

23. Charles M'Gee:
2 beds; dresser; chairs; a large quantity of potatoes; 1 cow tied in an outhouse; a large quantity of potatoes; 3 bags of rye. I am told he has 7 head of cattle and a horse.

24. Widow Catherine M'Cool, or O'Donnell:
1 bed and bedstead; a chest; some meal.
(Got relief, No. 288.)

25. Pat M'Elwaine:
2 beds and bedsteads; chairs; chest; woollen wheel; potatoes; 1 cow tied in.
(Got relief, 304.)

26. Manus Boyle:
4 beds and bedsteads; chairs; table; dresser; meal; 2 cows; 1 pig; a large quantity of potatoes in his barn. I am told that he has 7 head of cattle. This is one of the men that Hugh M'Bride said used sea-weed.

27. Pat O'Donnell:
1 bed; dresser, and chest; a poor house. I am told he has a cow.
(Got relief, 303.)

28. Anthony Galagher:
2 bedsteads, nothing in them; a dresser. I am told he has 3 head of cattle.
(Got relief, 310.)

29. Frank Galagher:
2 beds and bedsteads; dresser; chests; a quantity of potatoes. I am told he has 8 head of cattle.

30. Michael M'Munnigle:
2 beds and bedsteads; a dresser; a chest. He appears to be poor.
(Got relief, 298.)

31. Michael Gallagher (tailor):
1 bed; dresser; 1 cow.
(Got relief, 299.)

32. Ned Galagher:
2 bedsteads; dresser; chest; some potatoes; 1 cow.
(Got relief, 297.)

33. Widow N. Galagher:
This is the woman whose husband died in the mountain; 1 bed; some meal; 1 cow.
(Got relief, 295.)

34. Maggy M'Gue;
A poor and bad house.
(Got relief, 287.)

35. Maggy Coll (widow):
1 bed; 2 bedsteads; 1 dresser. I hear that she has 2 cows.
(Got relief, 301.)

36. Daniel O'Donnell:
House shut up.
(Got relief, 290.)

37. Widow Rogers:
This is the woman M'Bride said had eaten "a garden of sea-weed;" 1 bed and bedstead; 1 dresser; woollen wheel. She said she sometimes eat sea-weed, but had meal now; she appears to be poor.
(Got relief, No. 286.)

38. Frank O'Donnell (cobbler):
3 beds and bedsteads; dresser; chairs, and chests. I am told he has 4 cows.
(Got relief, 284.)

39. James O'Donnell:
3 bedsteads: the beds appear to have been taken out; a dresser; chest; some meal. I am told he has 1 cow.
(Got relief, 283.)

40. Paddy Galagher:
3 beds and bedsteads; dresser; chest; chairs; table; some potatoes and meal; two cows tied in an outhouse.
(Got relief, 282.)

41. Tole Coll (carpenter):
3 bedsteads, blankets and rug on them; 1 dresser; 1 cow tied in; carpenter's tools.
(Got relief, 281.)

42. Manus O'Donnell (cooper):
Was working at his trade: 1 bed and bedstead; dresser; chest; 1 cow and calf.
(Got relief, 274.)

MEENADUFF.

43. Ned Campbell:
2 ticken beds and bedsteads; 1 dresser; chairs; chests; a large quantity of potatoes—more than they will require for their own use; a good deal of milk; 3 cows; crops good.
(Got relief, 709.)

44. James Boyle:
House shut.
(Got relief, 262.)

45. Hugh Galagher:
2 beds and bedsteads; some potatoes; 4 cows.
(Got relief, 263.)

46. Widow Nora Galagher:
3 bedsteads; 3 beds, two in ticks; 1 dresser; chests; table; chairs; woollen wheel; 6 head of cattle, 3 of them milch cows; 1 horse.
(Got relief.)

47. Connel Galagher:
2 beds and bedsteads; chest; churn; 1 cow; meal; some potatoes.
(Got relief, 259.)

48. Manus Coll:
A very poor house. I am told he has a cow.
(Got relief, 257.)

49. Nogher M'Bride:
Family at dinner; potatoes and milk; 1 bed and bedstead; a dresser; 1 cow; 1 heifer.

50. Michael

Appendix, No. 9.

50. Michael M'Bride:
House shut. This man, I am told, has 7 head of cattle, a horse, and sold meal on credit.
(Got relief.)

51. Charles Galagher:
2 beds and bedsteads; dresser; some potatoes; a sack of oats; 2 cows.
(Got relief, No. 256.)

52. Bryan Boyle:
Beds; dresser; chairs, &c.; potatoes; 4 sacks of oats, which they wanted to conceal; 2 cows tied in. I am told he has 4 cows.
(Got relief, 579.)

53. Hugh Conaghen:
A very poor man.
(Got relief, 269.)

54. Daniel Galagher:
House shut. I am told he has cows.
(Got relief, 269.)

55. Michael Gumelly:
1 bedstead, and bed made of hay; as much potatoes as he can use; 2 cows.
(Got relief, 568.)

56. Neal Diver:
House shut. I am told he is well off; that he has 4 cows and a horse; sells potatoes on credit.
(Got relief, 577.)

57. Dominick Doherty:
This man is husband to the woman Mrs. Doherty; said he had no bed or bed-clothes the night she was confined; 2 beds and bedsteads; 1 cow; some meal. The man is poor.
(Got relief, 266.)

58. Hugh Sweeny:
2 beds and bedsteads; a woollen wheel; 1 milch cow. This man is poor.
(Got relief, 265.)

59. William Doherty:
House shut. I am told he has 4 cows. One of Mr. Doherty's witnesses.
(Got relief.)

60. Thomas M'Bride:
House shut; his father standing outside the house; 9 head of cattle; 1 horse; 1 boat.

61. Owen Doherty:
Well off; 5 cows and horse.
(Got relief, 600.)

62. Maggy Sweeny:
Very poor.
(Got relief, 272.)

63. Dominick Sweeny:
3 beds and bedsteads; 2 new calf cows; a large quantity of potatoes.
(Got relief, 573.)

64. Charles Ferry:
1 bed and bedstead; 1 cow and calf.
(Got relief, 573.)

65. James M'Garvy:
House shut up; his family sitting outside, and would not open it. I am told he has a horse and 3 cows; well off.

66. Edmund Galagher:
House shut; same as last. I am told he has 3 cows and some sheep; well off.
(Got relief, No. 571.)

67. Michael Ferry:
House shut. I am told he is well off; 3 cows; 1 horse.

68. Owen Ferry:
House shut; 3 cows and horse; gave out money at interest, and sells meal on credit.

69. Charles Doherty:
2 beds and bedsteads; dresser; 1 chest. I am told he has 4 cows.
(Got relief, 569.)

70. John M'Garvy:
3 beds and bedsteads; dresser; 3 chairs. Would not open his barn. I am told he has potatoes and oats in it. The window was open, and saw it full of potatoes. I am told he has 5 cows and a horse; he said he had but 2 cows.
(Got relief, 707.)

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17 June 1858.

MAGHERACLOGHER.

71. Jack Mulligan:
3 bedsteads, and beds in ticks; good bed-clothes; dresser; chairs; table; boxes; woollen wheel; 2 sacks of oatmeal; a horse and cart; 8 head of cattle. I found a new chaff bed, a large quantity of wearing apparel concealed on a loft, and covered with straw.
(Got relief, 66.)

72. Dolly Galagher:
2 bedsteads, beds and bed-clothes; dresser; chair; table; 3 cows; some sheep.

73. William M'Lean (shoemaker):
A clean house; bedstead, curtains, a feather bed, and good bed-clothes; a dresser, chairs and table.

74. Sally Peebles:
House shut up. I am told she has feather beds and 1 cow.

75. Susan Galagher:
Small house; 1 bed; 1 bedstead; a dresser; 2 chairs; a chest.

76. Connor Peebles:
A good house; 3 rooms and kitchen; 2 bedsteads, beds and bed-clothes; dresser; chairs; tables; a quantity of blankets and bed-clothes hidden out of the house; 3 cows and a horse.

77. James Sweeny:
2 bedsteads and beds; 1 cow.

78. Anthony

78. Anthony Sweeny:
1 bedstead and bed; table; chest; churn; chairs; 4 cows, and 1 horse.

79 Owen M'Bride:
2 bedsteads; beds and bed-clothes; dresser; chairs and chests; 2 cows; a horse; a quantity of potatoes.

80. Pat O'Donnell:
2 bedsteads; beds and bed-clothes; a dresser; chairs; table; boxes; a quantity of potatoes; 3 head of cattle; 9 sheep.

81. Daniel Doherty:
2 bedsteads; beds and bed-clothes; a dresser; chairs; a churn; some potatoes and meal; 3 head of cattle; 30 sheep.

82. James Rourly:
2 bedsteads; beds and bed-clothes; a dresser; chest; chairs; a bag of oats; a bag of wool; potatoes, and meal; 3 cows; a lot of sheep; 1 horse.

83. Paddy Boyle:
1 bedstead; bed and bed-clothes; two large chests; some clothes; some potatoes; 1 cow; a horse; a boat; 6 sheep.

84. Biddy M'Gue:
1 bedstead; bed and bed-clothes, not good; a donkey, and some potatoes.

85. Roger Galagher:
3 bedsteads; beds and bed-clothes, not good; a woollen wheel; a dresser; 2 chairs; 3 head of cattle; a donkey and some sheep; a dirty house.

86. Neal Doherty;
2 bedsteads; beds and bed-clothes; a table; chest, and a chair; no cattle. Poor.

87. Jack Galagher:
1 bedstead; 1 bed; bed-clothes; 2 chests; a dresser; 3 chairs; 2 cows.

88. Cormick Doogan:
House shut. I am told this man is rich; sells provisions on time; has a horse and cart; 6 cows.

89. Tigue Boyle:
2 bedsteads; be ds andbed-clothes; a dresser; chairs; some potatoes; 1 cow.

90. Jack Bournes (weaver):
1 bedstead; bed and bed-clothes; 2 chairs; 1 woollen wheel; a loom. Appears to be poor.
(Got relief, No. 69.)

91. Thomas Mulligan:
House shut. I am told he is a rich man, worth 300*l.*; has a good house; 3 cows; a horse. Sells provisions on time.

92. John or Thomas Galagher:
2 bedsteads and beds, good; a dresser; chairs; a chest; some potatoes; he got 1 cwt. of relief meal; has 5 cows. Sells meal on credit.
(Got relief, No. 71.)

93. Daniel M'Bride (shoemaker):
3 bedsteads and beds; a dresser; chairs; some meal in a sack; 1 horse and cart; 1 cow.

94. Shane Mulligan:
A poor, dirty house; a bedstead and bed; 1 cow.

95. Hugh O'Donnell:
1 bedstead; bed and bed-clothes; chest; 2 chairs; a dresser; 2 horses; 3 cows. Sells potatoes, which I am told he delivers at night; he says he would be afraid to deliver them in the day.

96. John Galagher:
1 bedstead and bed. Poor.

97. Margaret Sweeny:
2 bedsteads; dresser; chairs; chests; 1 cow and calf.
(Got relief, 65.)

98. John Galagher:
2 bedsteads; ticken beds; bed-clothes; dresser; 4 chairs; chests; some potatoes; 3 cows, and a horse.

99. John Doherty:
2 bedsteads and beds; table; chairs; dresser; a large quantity of potatoes; 1 horse, cart, and 3 cows.

100. Frank O'Donnell:
2 bedsteads; beds; dresser; table; chairs; a large quantity of potatoes; 3 head of cattle.

101. Ned Sweeny:
House locked. I am told he has 2 head of cattle.

102. Nogher Galagher:
1 bedstead; bed and bed-clothes; a sack of barley and some potatoes.
(Got relief, 63.)

103. Daniel Coll:
No bed—evidently put out of the way; has 20*l.* in cash; 3 cows; sells potatoes. His wife told me they had no bed.

104. Widow Unity M'Bride:
No one in the house. A bedstead; bed and bed-clothes; a dresser; 2 cows. Sells milk. A very dirty house.
(Got relief, 62.)

105. Charles Freel:
House locked up. He has 1 horse; 2 cows; 12 sheep. Sells potatoes.

106. Widow Doogan:
Poor.

107. Hugh Bourns (weaver):
A poor and bad house.

MIDDLETON.

Appendix, No. 9.

MIDDLETON.

108. Frank M'Connor:
A poor house; he says he pays no rent; 1 bedstead and bed.
(Got relief, No. 31.)

109. Anne Doogan (widow):
A small and bad house; seems to be poor. I am told she pays no rent.

110. Charley M'Bride:
A good house; no person in; seemed well furnished with beds, &c.; 2 cows; a horse and cart.
(Got relief, 32.)

111. Hugh M'Bride (smith):
A very dirty house; 1 cow.
(Got relief, 17.)

112. Andy Carroll:
A bad and dirty house; 1 cow and a donkey.
(Got relief, 42.)

113. Hugh Galagher:
House shut. He has, I am told, enough of provisions; 2 beds; 2 cows, and 9 sheep.
(Got relief, 40.)

114. Owen M'Garvy:
A bad house, and a poor man.
(Got relief, 29.)

115. Bryan M'Cool:
1 bedstead; bed and bed-clothes; 1 dresser; a chest; a large quantity of potatoes; 3 cows in his room; 1 cow out, and a horse.

116. Widow Hugh Doogan:
2 bedsteads and bed; a woollen wheel; table and chairs; a good quantity of potatoes; 1 horse and 2 cows.

117. Owen Galagher:
1 bed; a chest; 1 cow, tied in; a bad house; he has been selling potatoes.
(Got relief, 28.)

118. Widow Mary Booner:
A poor and bad house; has a few sheep. She is, I am told, poor.
(Got relief, 27.)

119. Margaret Galagher:
A poor house; no person in it.
(Got relief, 26.)

120. Sophia M'Cool:
A very bad house, and appears very poor.
(Got relief, 24.)

121. Fanny Boyle (widow):
A bad house, and appears poor; no cattle.
(Got relief, 25.)

122. James Galagher, junior:
Lives in a bad house; had a cow tied in the end of it; says he has got a new cut, and will build a house on it.
(Got relief, 22.)

123. James Galagher, senior:
Father to James Galagher, junior; a bad house; 1 heifer and 2 goats; seems poor.
(Got relief, No. 23.)

124. John O'Donnell:
2 bedsteads; beds and bed-clothes; a dresser; table; chairs; a chest; 2 cows; 10 sheep.
(Got relief, 20.)

125. William Coll:
1 bedstead and bed; a dresser; table; chest and chairs; a heap of potatoes; 1 horse and 3 cows.
(Got relief, 41.)

126. Widow Ellen Galagher:
A poor and bad house.
(Got relief, 18.)

127. James M'Coll:
2 bedsteads; beds and bed-clothes; a dresser; boxes; a good heap of potatoes; 3 cows; a horse and some sheep. Sells meal and potatoes on credit.

128. John Feeny:
A small house; 1 bed; dresser and chests; 1 cow.
(Got relief, 19.)

129. Charley Doherty:
A poor-looking house; 3 cows. I am told he is not in want.

130. Biddy M'Bride (a blind woman):
A poor house; a bedstead and bed; a dresser.
(Got relief, 37.)

131. Michael M'Bride:
A poor house; 1 bed; 1 dresser; 1 cow; 2 calves.
(Got relief, 36.)

CARRICK.

132. Hugh Feeny:
Keeps a shop; 2 bedsteads; chaff beds; bed-clothes; dresser; chairs; woollen wheel; 4 cows; a horse and cart.

133. Hugh Sweeny (tailor):
2 bedsteads; chaff beds and bed-clothes; 1 dresser; 3 chairs; 1 box; 1 woollen wheel; 1 cow.
(Got relief, 386.)

134. Maurice Freel:
1 bedstead and straw bed; a dresser; some potatoes; 1 cow.
(Got relief, 378.)

135. Ned Sweeny:
2 bedsteads; 1 chaff bed and 1 straw bed; a dresser, chest and 3 chairs; 1 cow.
(Got relief, 377.)

136. Michael M'Gue (blacksmith):
1 bedstead; chaff bed; bed-clothes; some potatoes; 2 cows.

137. Dominick

137. Dominick M'Garvy:
3 bedsteads and beds, 1 chaff, 2 ditto straw; dresser; table; chairs; 1 horse; 4 cows; a barn locked-up, which they refused to open.

138. Shane M'Fadden:
2 bedsteads, with straw in them, appearing as if the beds and clothes had been taken away; two children in the house. I am told he has 3 cows and 1 horse.
(Got relief, No. 401.)

139. Widow Maggy Galagher:
Bedsteads and beds; a dresser press; 2 sacks of meal and some potatoes; 4 cows and a horse.

140. Jemmy Conaghen:
2 bedsteads and straw beds; a dresser; chairs; a quantity of wearing apparel concealed in the end of the house, under straw; 2 cows.
(Got relief, 404.)

141. James M'Ginty:
3 bedsteads, chaff beds and good bed-clothes in each; a dresser, chairs and chest; a large quantity of potatoes and oats in sacks; 4 sacks of oats in barn; 10 head of cattle; horses.

142. Shela M'Ginly (widow):
2 bedsteads and beds, 1 chaff, 1 ditto straw; bed-clothes; dresser; chairs and chest; a sack of meal and a sack of oats; 5 cows.

143. William Coyle:
2 bedsteads, and chaff beds and bedding; a dresser; chairs; 4 sacks of meal; 1 chest of barley; a quantity of potatoes; 4 cows; 1 horse.

144. Charles M'Hugh:
3 bedsteads; chaff beds; bed-clothes; 4 large sacks of oats; a dresser; chairs in his room; a stand full of oats, and a large quantity of potatoes; 4 cows and 1 horse.

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AGITATION. The effect upon the country of this agitation and inquiry is most injurious, *Brady* 6313——The excitement consequent upon these transactions is doing an incalculable injury to the people, *Nixon* 7452-7459.

Agrarian Outrages. See *Outrages.*

Alton Estate. Alton is one of the townlands witness purchased, and which is said to have been taken from the people and given to Scotchmen, *Woodhouse* 5776-5780——Some short time after witness's purchase, he had some idea of building a cottage on this townland as a summer residence, *ib.* 5781——Difficulty he had in getting rid of the only tenant who was on the property, a man of the name of M'Swiney; large sum witness had to pay him before he could get rid of him, *ib.* 5781-5787——Dirty and wretched state of this man's house, although when he went out he took away, in stock and money due, at least 400 *l.*, *ib.* 5783——He kept all his cattle in his room with himself, and when he went out forty loads of manure were taken out of the house, *ib.* 5783.

The appearance of his house would have done for the show for the newspaper reporters, *Woodhouse* 5787——Witness abandoned the idea of building a residence on the property; steps he took to let it, *ib.* 5788——One or two persons had it for a short time, and it was eventually let to a Mr. Wright, of Aberdeen, *ib.* 5788, 5789. 5792——Witness never heard of any person having the right of grazing on it but himself, *ib.* 5790, 5791. 5796-5800——Witness has taken the farm of Alton, belonging to Mr. Woodhouse, *Hunter* 6009-6019.

Arbitrators. Approval of what are called priests' arbitrators for settling disputes between landlords and tenants, *Nixon* 7380.

Ardnagappary. The condition of the townland of Ardnagappary or Middleton is equally miserable as that of the other townlands described, *Doherty* 1579, 1580.

See also *Stock.*

Ardsbeg. The townland of Ardsbeg belongs to Mr. Wybrants Olphert, *M'Fadden* 3509——Instances showing that the people who live in the mountain portion of this townland are very poor, *ib.* 3510-3522.

B.

Ballinacraig. The people in the townland of Ballinacraig are very poor, and are in the same condition as the people of Upper Keeldrum, *M'Fadden* 3478-3485.

Ballyloes Townland. The people of the townland of Ballyloes, of which the Rev. Mr. Nixon is the landlord, are very poor, *Doherty* 1835-1841——Witness went to Ballyloes, the property of the Rev. Mr. Nixon; went into a few houses here and there, *Holland* 2374-2376——The houses were the most wretched cabins witness ever saw in Ireland, *ib.* 2377——The peasantry were very ragged, and very wretched looking, *ib.* 2378——The beds were little bundles of rags tied up in a corner, *ib.* 2378-2380.

Baltony Townland. See *Grazing*, II. *Rents*, I. 2. i.

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BEDDING:

I. *Statements as to the Wretched Condition of the Bedding in the District generally.*

II. *In particular Townlands:*

1. Bog of Gweedore.
2. Dunmore.
3. Keeldrum, Upper.
4. Lunniagh.
5. Mageralosk.
6. Middletown.
7. Tullaghobegly.

III. *Refutation of these Statements.*

I. *Statements as to the Wretched Condition of the Bedding in the District generally:*

Wretched state of the bedding of these people, and scanty nature thereof, and of their bed-covering, *M'Bride* 47-56——Witness has known nine people to lie in the same bed; attempt made to divide the sexes, *ib.* 57-64——Evidence as to the condition of witness's furniture and bedding, *Gallagher* 2840-2843. 2847-2852——The condition of the beds and bedding of these people is very bad, *M'Fadden* 3303——Miserable state of their bedding and bed clothes; their principal food was sea-weed; many of them had no furniture whatever, *Underwood* 3898-3930——The condition of the bedding in the whole of the townlands witness visited was very bad, *Boyle* 4432-4437.

II. *In particular Townlands:*

1. Bog of Gweedore:

Condition witness found these people in as regards their bedding; under some of the beds he discovered about half a barrel of a poor kind of potatoes, *Williams* 1210.

2. Dunmore:

Wretched condition of the bedding of the people, *M'Fadden* 3349-3359.

3. Keeldrum, Upper:

Evidence showing that the bedding of the people of this townland is not worse than the general bedding of the country, *Olphert* 5596-5610. 5619-5636.

4. Lunniagh:

Wretched state of their bedding and clothing, *Doherty* 1513-1526——The state of the beds and bedding of the townland of Lunniagh is exceedingly bad, and the people have scarcely any clothing, *M'Gee* 2329-2331.

5. Magheralosk:

Miserable state of their bedding and bed clothes; out of thirteen families in the townland only two familes have beds, *Doherty* 1382-1389.

6. Middletown:

Bad state of the beds and bed-clothing in the townland of Middletown in the autumn of last year, *M'Bride* 354-362——The bed was a bundle of rags tied up in a corner, *Holland* 2446.

7. Tullaghobegly:

Wretched condition of the people as to bedding and bed clothes, *M'Gee* 2295, 2296.

III. *Refutation of these Statements:*

Description of the beds generally found in these houses, *Olphert* 5051-5060——Witness is quite certain that the beds and bedding of the people is as comfortable as he has been accustomed to see it for the last ten years, *Stewart* 7838, 7839.

See also *Ballyloes Townland.*

Begging. The people had an objection to the workhouse, but they had no objection to begging, *Holland* 2462——The relief system has checked all improvement, and has given the people begging habits, *Olphert* 4904, 4905.

Bishop of the Diocese. Witness has never heard it stated in conversation, nor seen it in print, that the bishop had expressed an opinion that the appeal made by the clergymen was not only true, but understated in its facts, *Cruice* 8200-8215.

Bog Money. The former proprietor of witness's property did not charge bog money; reason why witness has found it necessary to do so, *Nixon* 7533-7541.

Boyle,

Report, 1857-8—*continued.*

Boyle, Owen. (Analysis of his Evidence.) Has lived at Falcarragh, in the district of Cloughaneely, seventeen years; is a nailer by trade, and keeps a china and glass shop, 4321-4327——Is pretty well acquainted with the people of the district, 4328-4330——Falling off in witness's trade; it has never been so bad as last winter, 4331-4337——There is a greater consumption of sea-weed as an article of food than there was formerly, 4338-4340——In May last witness was sent out by the parish priest to take notes as to the stock the people had, and as to their general condition, 4341-4346.

Witness has known the people of Roy and Ballyboe to be comfortably and well-drest formerly; their condition now as to clothing is very bad, 4347-4354. 4508, 4509——The same remark will apply to the townland of Stroughan; instance in the case of a man named Owen M'Award, showing the miserable condition of the people, 4355-4370. 4513-4518——Wretched state of destitution of a man named M'Kimm, living in the townland of Calhame, of which the Rev. Mr. Nixon is the landlord, 4371-4378.

Amount of the former stock of the people of the townland of Ray; amount of their present stock, showing an immense decrease therein, 4379-4390——Great diminution in the amount of the stock of the people of the townland of Ballyboe since 1846; 4391-4408——List of the former stock in the townland of Stroughan; present stock showing a great decrease, 4409-4412——Similar account for the townland of Calhame, 4413-4421.

Witness took the stock in the townland of Dunmore, and the result of his inquiry was to show a great decrease therein, 4422-4428——Witness inquired also into the condition of the people of Dunmore, and found them to be a great deal more miserable than he had ever known them before, 4429-4431——The condition of the bedding in the whole of the townlands witness visited was very bad, 4432 4437——Great aversion of the people to go into the workhouse; they have a notion that if they go there they will be sure to die, 4438-4447.

Opinion that it is not entirely the Gregory clause, as to their giving up their land, that prevents them, as those that have no land have the same aversion as those that have land, 4448-4453——As regards wages, witness has never known the people refuse to work at 10*d.* a day if they could get employment; at turf-cutting only are the wages higher, 4454-4460——Reason for the falling off of the kelp trade in the district, 4461-4476. 4523-4527——Even at kelp-making the people could not earn more than 10*d.* or 1*s.* a day, upon the average; it is a precarious crop, 4477-4480.

Witness has been informed that Police-constable Thompson has been going round the district of Cloughaneely with Mr. Nixon taking an account of the stock; manner in which they have taken this account, 4481-4501——If the relief stops, witness's opinion is that a great many of the people would suffer from starvation; witness cannot see how they can support themselves without it, 4502-4504——Suffering of the people from the taking away of the mountain pasturage, 4505, 4506. 4510-4512——Some of them complain of their rents having been raised, 4507——The people are charged for burning lime, if even they burn it in their own kilns, 4521, 4522.

Reason for the sheep-tax being levied, 4528-4535——Manner in which witness made his calculation and returns as to the stock of the people in the townlands he visited, 4536-4544——There is not so much poverty and distress on Mr. Wybrants Olphert's property as in some of the other properties in the district, 4545-4552. 4573-4578. 4593-4610——Further evidence showing that the people were better off in 1846 than they are now, 4557-4572. 4579-4592.

Brady, George Frazer. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Surgeon; has for the last three of four years resided at Falcarragh, in the district of Cloughaneely, 6229-6231——Has had the Gweedore district under his charge for the last sixteen years; is intimately acquainted with the people and their customs and habits, 6232-6234——Grounds for arriving at the conclusion that there is no destitution in the district; there is no sickness arising from want of food and clothing, 6235-6238——Since the appeal was made to the public through the Roman-catholic clergyman witness has paid more particular attention to the condition of the people, 6239.

Witness can positively state that the condition of their clothing and bedding is not worse than it usually has been since he has been connected with the neighbourhood, 6240-6255——Opinion that the crops of last year were good, 6256-6259——The rate of wages has rather increased, 6260-6262——The statements which have been made that there are 800 families subsisting on sea-weed or using it to prolong their food is entirely without foundation; many persons use particular sorts of it as a relish to their food, 6263-6267. 6335-6348——In small quantities it is not at all an unwholesome food; witness has eaten it himself and prescribed it to his better sort of patients, 6265.

Evidence as to the amount paid for the purchase of Mrs. Russell's estate, and amount expended on it since, 6268, 6269——Great assistance afforded to the people by Lord George Hill during the famine years; great exertions by him on their behalf, 6270-6272——Any evidence describing him as an exterminator of the people is a gross libel, 6273,

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Brady, George Frazer. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

6274——When Mr. Russell purchased his property he considered the mountains belonged to him, and so did every one else; it is only since the appointment of this Committee that there has been any opposition to the making of new cuts upon them, 6275-6283.

Evidence showing that many persons who were in tolerably good circumstances received relief from the Relief Fund, 6284-6297——It was the general opinion of every one that this relief was given not so much to relieve distress as to compensate the people for the sheep-tax; evidence in support of this assertion, 6298-6309——Witness had most numerous applications for relief at the time of the famine, but has had no such applications latterly, 6310-6312.

The effect upon the country of this agitation and inquiry is most injurious, 6313——The landlords of the district have certainly been most kind to the tenants, and more especially Lord George Hill, 6314——There is a considerable decrease of sickness and disease this year in the district, 6315-6321. 6451-6456. 6465-6469——From general observation, witness would say that the clothing of the people is not worse this year than usual, 6352-6354.

Further evidence, showing that many persons received relief from this fund who were not at all in need of it, 6355-6375. 6379-6424——Witness was an eye-witness of some of the deception that was carried on at the time this inspection and relief was going on, 6369-6375. 6396-6434——The money that was laid out in the improvement of Mr. Russell's estate was indirectly for the benefit of the tenants as well as directly for the landlord, 6435-6450.

The people living on the estate of Mrs. Russell have the same amount of commonage they had at the time Mr. Russell purchased the estate, 6461-6464——The whole of the tenants on Mrs. Russell's property who paid the tax got relief, with one or two exceptions, 6470-6485——There is a considerable demand for labour on the estate, 6486-6488——Evidence showing that the people of the townland of Crawley are not in a state of destitution, 6489-6503.

Brinlack Townland. Acreage of the townland of Brinlack; valuation in 1840; valuation in 1857; old rent on each cow's grass; present rent, *Doherty* 1717-1740.

Brown, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Lives at Londonderry; is reporter and general manager of the "Londonderry Journal," 1095, 1096——Visited Gweedore for the first time in December 1857; was there two days, 1097-1099——Visited it again in May 1858, and remained a fortnight, 1100-1102——On both occasions witness was directed by the proprietor and editor of the paper to examine into the state and condition of the houses of the peasantry, 1103-1107——The result of witness's inquiries was, that he found the people were in a very destitute condition; their furniture and bedding were very scanty; their clothing scarcely fit for the purposes of decency, and their food sea-weed, 1108-1141.

Witness visited the townlands of Meenanillar, Upper and Lower Dore, Middletown, Magheralosk, and Magheraclogher, on Lord George Hill's estate, 1110. 1129, 1130——In every instance there had been an increase of rent, 1142-1145——Great diminution which had taken place in their stock owing to the mountain pasture lands being taken away from them, and their having to sell their stock to pay the taxation, 1145-1147.

Evident disinclination of the people to go into the poorhouse, 1148-1153——At the period of witness's visit the district of Cloughaneely did not suffer so much from taxation as from the raising of the rents, 1154. 1188-1196——The destitution in the districts which have been spoken of arose mainly from the mountain pastures being taken away, 1155-1158——Witness's visit to the districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely was only of a fortnight's duration, 1159-1166.

Witness's general means of information as to what he has described were personal inspection, 1167-1172——Witness was accompanied in his visits to some of the families in these districts by the Rev. Mr. M'Ghee, 1173 1179——When witness went down to make these inquiries he was not aware that he would have to come to the House of Commons as a witness, 1180——Witness was told that the people were prevented by the proprietors from getting sea-weed, 1181-1187.

Bunbeg. Witness built a harbour and pier and quay at Bunbeg entirely at his own expense, *Lord G. Hill* 6642-6646——Also built a corn-mill, *ib.* 6647, 6648——Witness also built a school-house, which was licensed by the bishop of the diocese for Divine worship; he likewise built a glebe-house, *ib.* 6649-6651——A large store or shop was likewise built by witness, but he has nothing to do with it but to receive the rent, *ib.* 6652-6657——Further evidence as to the improvements witness has made in the district of Gweedore, *ib.* 6779-6791.——*See* also *Crops.*

Butter. When witness's cows are in milk he sells the butter at Letterkenny; it fetches sometimes 4 *d.*, and sometimes 8½ *d.* a pound, *T. M'Bride* 2775-2779.

C.

Cabins. The cabins that are built on the new cuts are all built by the tenents themselves, *Holland* 2403-2413.——*See* also *Houses. Mud Hovels.*

Carrick Townland. Evidence showing that the people of this townland are much reduced in their circumstances within the last three years, *H. M'Bride* 410 *et seq.*——Miserable condition of the people of the townland of Carrick; number of families in the townland, *Doherty* 1404 *et seq.*——*See* also *County Cess. Grazing,* II. 2. *Rents,* II. 2. ii.

Cashel Hill Townland. Evidence relative to the townland of Cashel Hill, of which Mr. Wybrants Olphert is the landlord, *M'Fadden* 3360 *et seq.*
See also *Clothing,* I. 2. iii.

Cattle. Evidence showing that the people had a larger number of cattle and sheep some two or three years ago than they have now; they have been obliged to sell them to support themselves, and to pay the taxes and rents, *M'Bride* 36, 37. 133-161. 168, 169——Many of the people from choice keep their cattle in the house; reason of this, *Olphert* 4748. 4887-4890——Witness found cattle in nearly all the houses he visited, *Hamilton* 8585-8588.
See also *Condition of the People. Grazing. Impounding Cattle. Sheep. Stock. Taxes. Trespassing.*

Character of the People. They are a peaceable and mild people, *Underwood* 4217.
See also *Morality.*

Clergy. See *Roman-catholic Clergy.*

CLOTHING:

I. *Statements relative to the Miserable Condition of the Clothing of the People:*

1. Generally.

2. In particular Townlands:

i. Bog of Gweedore
ii. Carrick.
iii. Cashel Hill.
iv. Glasshagh.
v. Lower Keeldrum.
vi. Magheralosk.
vii. Middletown.
viii. Ray and Ballyboe.
ix. Tullaghobegly.

II. *Refutation of these Statements.*

I. *Statements relative to the Miserable Condition of the Clothing of the People:*

1. Generally:

Evidence showing that these people were better clad some two or three years since than they were last year; some of the women were hardly sufficiently clothed for the purposes of decency, *H. M'Bride* 65-102——Witness denies the statement of Mr. Olphert that the people of Cloughaneely are better clothed this year than they have been for some years past, *Doherty* 1969-1971——The people of this district were tolerably clad previously to 1854, *ib.* 1983——Miserable state as to the clothing in which many of the people of the district attended the Roman-catholic chapels on Sundays, *O'Dougherty* 2233-2235——Witness has seen many instances in which the dress of the females was insufficient for the purpose of covering their person; they are much worse clothed within the last two years than they were when witness first knew the district, *ib.* 2241-2247.

The clothing of the people is in a very bad condition; the women's clothing is not sufficient for the purposes of decency, *Gallagher* 2878-2885——The people are very poorly clad, and their bed and bedding is of the worst description, *M'Fadden* 3177-3179. 3202-3204——The clothing of the people exhibited destitution, destitution unmistakeable; this was after they had received various contributions of clothing, *Underwood* 3931-3944.

2 In particular Townlands:

i. Bog of Gweedore:

Deplorable destitution of these poor people with regard to personal covering, *Williams* 1219.

ii. Carrick:

The people have been gradually deteriorating since 1854; in that year they were sufficiently clad for the purposes of decency, *Doherty* 1461-1464——Present wretched condition of their clothing; many of them have not sufficient clothing to go to chapel; the clothing of the women is not sufficient for the purposes of decency, *ib.* 1465-1474.

Report, 1857-8—*continued.*

CLOTHING—continued.

I. *Statements, &c.*—2. In particular Townlands—*continued.*

iii. Cashel Hill:

The state of the clothing and bedding of these people is bad, but not so bad as that upon the property of the Earl of Leitrim or the Rev. Mr. Nixon, M'*Fadden* 3367-3375.

iv. Glashagh:

The clothing of the people on this townland is very bad, *Doherty* 1786-1796.

v. Lower Keeldrum:

Instances showing the wretched condition of the people as to food, clothing, and bedding, *M'Fadden* 3491-3503.

vi. Magheralosk:

Eleven families have scarcely any coats except in rags, and no linen whatever; the clothing of the women is not sufficient for the purposes of decency, *Doherty* 1392-1396 ——They are bad off for clothes and bedding, *T. M'Bride*, 2561-2563.

vii. Middletown:

Their clothing is not fit for purposes of decency, *H. M'Bride* 363-369.

viii. Ray and Ballyboe:

Witness has known the people of Ray and Ballyboe to be comfortably and well dressed formerly; their condition now as to clothing is very bad, *Boyle* 4347-4354. 4508, 4509.

ix. Tullaghobegly:

Miserable condition of the people of the parish of Tullaghobegly as to clothing when witness arrived there, *M'Gee* 2288, 2289. 2299.

II. *Refutation of these Statements:*

The women of Middletown were thinly clad, but were sufficiently clad for the purposes of decency, *Holland*, 2455, 2456 ——Evidence showing that the evidence which has been given of the wretched nature of the clothing of the people of the Gweedore district is not founded in fact, *Olphert* 4745. 4944-4955. 5080-5174 ——There is no difference in the clothing of those who are well off and the clothing of the poorest class, *Hunter* 6074, 6075——From general observation, witness would say that the clothing of the people is not worse this year than usual, *Brady* 6352-6354 ——When witness was down at Gweedore in May last the dress of the people was the same as it had always been, *Lord G. Hill* 6740-6743.

Witness considers the clothing of the people to be better than it was seven or eight years ago, *Robertson* 7065-7072——The clothing of the people is as good as witness ever saw it, and a great deal better than he has often seen it, *Stewart* 7832-7837. 7903-7906 ——Witness has been in the habit of visiting the district of Gweedore of late years; was there last year, *Maunsell* 7927, 7928. 7930, 7931——The people looked as well, as far as their clothing went, as when he was there previously, *ib.* 7932-7936——Witness has not observed any want of clothing, *Hamilton* 8600-8603.

See also *Bedding. Condition of the People. Furniture. Sheep Tax. Shoes and Stockings. Taxes.*

Collection of the Taxes. Witness has received a reward of 25 *l.* for his conduct in collecting the taxes, *Young* 8481, 8482.

Compensation. See *Encroachments. Tenant Right.*

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE:

1. *Alleged Destitute Condition of the People of these Districts.*
2. *Refutation of these Allegations.*

1. *Alleged Destitute Condition of the People of these Districts:*

Witness is quite certain that the people are much worse off in every respect now than they were twenty years ago, and also than they were three years ago, *M'Bride* 801-810 ——Witness was directed by the proprietor and editor of the "Londonderry Journal" to examine into the state and condition of the houses of the peasantry, *Browne* 1103-1107 ——The result of witness's inquiries was that he found the people were in a very destitute condition; their furniture and bedding were very scanty; their clothing scarcely fit for the purposes of decency, and their food sea-weed; their stock of potatoes was very small, and what they had were very bad, *ib.* 1108-1141——The people have always been poor, but for the last few years their condition has greatly deteriorated, *Doherty* 1273.

There

Report, 1857-8—*continued*.

Condition of the People—continued.

1. *Alleged Destitute Condition of the People of these Districts*—continued.

There are portions of Cloughaneely that may have the means of sustenance, but the portion which lost the mountain and suffer from taxation have not the means of supporting themselves, *Doherty* 1972——Witness would say that the district of Gweedore is much worse off in 1858 than it was in 1848, *ib.* 2032-2053——In 1857 witness visited several houses in the townland of Middletown, and found the people in a most miserable condition as to food, bedding, and clothing; their food was sea-weed, *O'Dougherty* 2202-2210——Grounds on which witness forms the opinion that the condition of the people was worse in 1857 than it was in 1853, *ib.* 2253-2279——The cause to which witness attributes this is, that the sheep cess and police tax were imposed in the former year; witness also heard the people complain of the increase of the rents and the deprivation of the mountains, *ib.* 2280.

From witness's inspection of the district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely during the ten days he was there, he would say that the people were in a very destitute state, *Holland* 2520-2534——The people of Gweedore are worse off this year than they were the year before, *T. M'Bride* 2597, 2598. 2628-2666——The condition of the people is one of the most deplorable that can be imagined, *M'Fadden* 3125——Before 1838 the people might have been considered comparatively comfortable, *ib.* 3126-3139——If any person were to state that the people were better off this year than any other year, it would not be truth, *ib.* 3591, 3592——In every respect the district of Cloughaneely is decidedly in a worse condition than when witness first visited it in 1858, *ib.* 3683-3701——Witness found the people of Gweedore and Cloughaneely in a state of great destitution as regards bedding, bed clothes, and body clothes, and also as regards food; so far as witness could ascertain, in a great many instances they had no property or cattle of any sort, *M'Groarty* 3783-3800——It was in 1855 that witness first visited the district; witness was in no way prepared to meet the destitution he found there, *Underwood* 3868-3872. 3878-3892——Witness has travelled a great deal in Ireland, and he considers this is the worst district he has ever seen, *ib.* 4218-4222——Witness has been to the district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely; was there on the 1st June and remained three days; was accompanied by his son, with a view of satisfying himself as to the general condition of the people. *W. S. Crawford* 4613-4618——The condition of the people witness saw convinced him that there was an extraordinary degree of poverty; they appeared to be in a state of very great destitution, *ib.* 4619-4627.

2. *Refutation of these Allegations:*

Witness is intimately acquainted with the habits and condition of the people, particularly of the Cloughaneely district, *Olphert* 4712——The people are better off than they have been for many years; they have more stock, and they have had a much better crop of potatoes and corn this year, *ib.* 4717-4720——Opinion that this district is far better off than other districts along the coast, *ib.* 4900-4902——The condition of the people generally in the district was a great deal better last year than it has been in former years, *ib.* 5762. 5767-5769.

Witness believes that the people of the townland of Meenacladdy are better off than they used to be, *Woodhouse* 5853, 5854——Witness does not consider the people to be in a state of destitution; their appearance of poverty arises from their habits, *Hunter* 6053-6061——Has (as surgeon) had the Gweedore district under his charge for the last sixteen years; is intimately acquainted with the people, and their customs and habits, *Brady* 6232-6234——Witness can positively assert that the condition of their clothing and bedding is not worse than it usually has been since he has been connected with the neighbourhood, *ib.* 6240-6255.

Witness considers that, on the whole, the district has considerably improved since 1847; the people are better clothed and better fed than they were then, *Thompson* 6560-6565. 6585-6589——The people of the districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely are better off than those of many of the neighbouring districts, *ib.* 6615-6625. 6628-6631——When witness purchased his property in Gweedore the district was in a very poor state, *Lord G. Hill* 6637, 6638——Comparative statement of the condition of the district in 1838 and its present condition, *ib.* 6749 *et seq.*——The result of this statement shows that it is not the frightful place that it is represented to be, *ib.* 6753.

The circumstances of the district have very much improved since 1845; wages have advanced, prices generally are higher, there are more carts in the district, and a great increase in the number of shops, *Nixon* 7392-7398. 7424-7431——Evidence showing that witness's tenantry are in a better condition now than they were formerly, *ib.* 7563-7613——The people in the county of Donegal are better off than the people of several other counties in Ireland, *ib.* 7697-7728——The district has much improved since witness first knew it thirty years ago, *Maunsell* 7941. 7945-7960. 7987——Opinion that the people of Gweedore do not appear to know what comfort means, *Cruice* 8265-8269——The state of their bedding and clothing is not the slightest indication of their means, *ib.* 2870-2880.

Report, 1857-8—*continued.*

Condition of the People—continued.

2. *Refutation of these Allegations*—continued.

Witness considers there is no destitution whatever; their clothing and bedding are better this year than they ever were, *Young* 8430-8440. 8515-8520——Witness was directed by the Poor-law Commissioners to make a report to them respecting the condition of the peasantry in the Gweedore and Cloughaneely district on the 16th February 1858, *Hamilton* 8540—— On the 22d February witness proceeded to the Milford Union and made inquiries at the Milford workhouse, and was told by the Board of Guardians that there were no indications of distress in that union, *ib.* 8541, 8542——Witness then proceeded to Dunfanaghy; the guardians all reported that there was no distress in the district, *ib.* 8543-8550——Witness also made inquiries of other parties as to the extent of the distress, and received the same report, that there was no distress at all, *ib.* 8851-8856——The result of witness's inspection was to convince him that there was no destitution at the time of his visit; it was impossible it could have existed without his observing it, *ib.* 8567-8618——List of persons visited in the districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, and who are for the most part in a state of destitution, *App. p.* 23.

See also *Bedding. Clothing. Distress. Famine Years. Glasheron Townland. Grazing. Lunniagh Townland. Meenacladdy Townland. Meenacuin Townland. Meenagopher Townland. Middletown Townland. Roy Townland. Relief. Sheep-Tax. Stock. Taxes. Wages. Workhouses.*

Cottiers. Witness has but few cottiers on his property, and these he employs, *Olphert* 4933-4941——Witness found several cottiers on the mountain without land; he has given them all land; *Nixon* 7290-7295——The houses of the cottiers are, generally speaking, better, neater, and cleaner-looking than most of the old tenants', *ib.* 7460-7463.

County Cess. On the townland of Magheraclogher, in the spring of 1857, the county cess was 3 *l.* 3 *s.* 1 *d.*, and in the summer of the same year it was 78 *l.* 1 *s.* 6 *d.*, *H. M'Bride* 162-167——The county cess of the townland of Middletown in the spring of 1857 was 2 *l.* 10 *s.* 3 *d.*; in the summer of the same year it was 62 *l.* 3 *s.* 3 *d.*, not including the police tax, *ib.* 264-266——Amount of the county cess on the townland of Carrick in the spring of 1857; increase in the summer of the same year, *ib.* 407-409——Amount of the county cess in Dore in the spring of 1857; amount thereof in the summer of the same, *ib.* 541, 542——Witness has paid county cess and all taxes upon his share of the grazing, *Lord G. Hill* 6660-6663. 6665, 6666.

Cow's Grass. Explanation as to what is meant by a cow's grass; the house is built upon it, and all improvements made by the tenant himself, *H. M'Bride* 123-127.

Crawford, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness accompanied his father in his visit through the districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely; went into a considerable number of houses more than his father did, 4692-4695——Wretched state of the inmates with respect to furniture, clothing, and bedding, 4696-4698. 4704, 4705——Evidence as to the use of sea-weed as an article of food, 4699.

Crawford, William Sharman. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at Crawfordsburn, in the county of Down, 4611, 4612——Has been to the district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely; went there on the 1st June, and remained three days; went, accompanied by his son, with a view of satisfying himself as to the general condition of the people, 4613-4618——Witness inspected as many houses as he thought would enable him to form an opinion on the subject, 4619-4622——The condition of the people witness saw convinced him that there was an extraordinary degree of poverty; they appeared to be in a state of very great destitution, 4622-4627——Their furniture, bedding, and clothing were very wretched, 4622——Witness understood that they used sea-weed to mix with their food to make it go further, 4623-4626.

There is little employment for the people, and when they get employment it is at a very low rate of wages, 4627——Witness was told that their poverty had been aggravated by the withdrawal of the liberty of commonage on the mountains and the raising of the rents, 4627——But witness considers that the greatest aggravation of their distress is the tax for the sheep and police, 4627-4631——The condition of the people quite satisfied witness's mind, individually, that there was a necessity for relief, 4631-4633.

Witness has never seen anything in the county of Down at any period to be compared with the condition of the people of Gweedore, 4634-4653——Witness believes that there is an allegation that the cause of this distress is the conduct of the the proprietors, but has never put himself in communication with any one of them on the subject, 4646, 4647——Opinion that it is impossible there can be anything else than destitution under the system of small allotments that is practised in the district; suggestions for remedying this evil, 4653-4668. 4685-4688——One great hardship is the fine imposed on the people for their cattle straying on the mountain, difficulty of their preventing this, 4669.

Report, 1847-8—*continued.*

Crawford, William Sharman. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

If they keep stock at all, it is essential for the people to have pasturage on the mountain, 4670, 4671——Grounds for forming the opiaion that the county of Donegal is not over-populated, 4672-4678——After the publication of the address relative to the state of distress in the district of Gweedore witness saw the resolution published by the Board of Guardians denying the state of destitution; witness believes that the Board are not justified in making this statement, 4679-4684. 4689-4691.

Crawford, Mr. W. S. Evidence showing that Mr. Sharman Crawford, and his son on their visit of inspection were taken to the same houses as other strangers, whether of the press or church, and these were what witness has described as the show houses, *Olphert* 5061-5079——At the time of Mr. Sharman Crawford's visit to the district, no means were taken to introduce him to witness by the priests who accompanied him, *Robertson* 7074-7082——Mr. Sharman Crawford's visit was of too flying a nature for him to see much of the district, *Stewart* 7844, 7845.

Crawley, Townland of. Evidence showing that the people of the townland of Crawley are not in a state of destitution, *Brady* 6489–6503.——*See* also *Rents*, I. 2. iv.

Crops. There have been no oats exported except to Bunbeg, Lord George Hill's store there; there is now no other market for their oats, *T. M'Bride* 2608–2627——Opinion that the crops of last year were good, *Brady* 5256-5259——There is no destitution whatever in the district; the crops were very good last year, *Robertson* 6963-6966——Under the present cultivation the land yields excellent crops; it would yield as good flax as any in Ireland, *Nixon* 7471-7476——The crops last year were very good, and there is a good supply of potatoes at the markets at the present time; price of potatoes, price of Indian meal, *Stewart* 7802-7807. 7919-7923.

Cruice, Daniel John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been a resident magistrate of Donegal more than twenty-one years; is a Roman-catholic, 8039-8042. 8044——Witness's attention as resident magistrate has been particularly directed by the Government to the existence of the outrages in the district, 8043. 8045——The first outrage of an agrarian nature as regards the sheep occurred in 1854, when the tails were cut off some sheep that were grazing upon land of Mr. Nixon's; particulars concerning this ontrage, 8046 *et seq.*

Numerous instances in which the Rev. Mr. Doherty, the Roman-catholic priest, has fined people for sending cattle to graze on Mr. Nixon's land, 8053-8058——Particulars as to witness having gone subsequently to protect the bailiff of Mr. Nixon in driving off cattle from Mr. Nixon's land which the tenants had driven on and endeavoured forcibly to keep there; evidence as to the Rev. Mr. Doherty having assisted the people in this, 8059, 8060. 8252-8264——Fines were afterwards imposed upon some of the people for this outrage, 8061-8064——Communication witness made after this occurrence to the Roman-catholic bishop of the diocese, 8065, 8066——He fully concurred with witness as to the improper course which Mr. Doherty had pursued on this occasion, 8067, 8068.

Circumstances connected with the ontrage committed on the house of Lillicoe, Mr. Woodhouse's shepherd, at Alton, 8069-8071——Steps witness took in consequence of this attack in stationing more police in the district, 8072——Circumstance of a number of Mr. Huggup's sheep being killed on the 3d February 1857; application made to Government to send an additional police force to the district, 8073-8078——Enormous outrages on the sheep which were subsequently reported to witness; the result of a search showed that the sheep so reported were actually killed, 8079–8086.

During the progress of these outrages witness felt it his duty to make further communications to the Roman-catholic bishop, 8087——Witness was of opinion, and is still so, that if the clergyman had spoken to the people as he should have done, these things would have dropped, 8087—— The bishop visited the district, and remained at the Gweedore Hotel two or three days, and addressed the people, showing them the foolish way in which they were acting, 8088, 8089.

Reference to a statement made to witness by the bishop as to his intention of removing Mr. Doherty; ultimately the bishop did remove him from the parish, 8090–8092——The first levy of the police-tax was in the summer of 1857; difficulty of finding collectors, 8093–8104——Witness recollects a petition having been presented to Parliament in June 1857; went down to the district of Gweedore, by order of Government, to make inquiries about the signatures, and could not find one person that had signed it, or authorised Mr. Doherty to sign their names, 8105–8108.

Evidence showing that the names of the three clergymen signed to the second petition were all in Mr. Doherty's handwriting, 8109, 8110——In the month of June this year, witness was directed by the Government to make inquiry as to the alleged destitution of the district; number of days he was employed in this investigation, 8111–8114——Number of houses he visited, 8115.

Report, 1857-8—*continued.*

Cruice, Daniel John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

The result of witness's investigation was that he found numerous people receiving relief who might be said to be very comfortably off as concerned food, cattle, clothing, bedding, &c. 8116-8166——When Mr. Doherty exacted fines from the people for sending cattle to graze on Mr. Nixon's land, he assumed a power that he did not possess in any way, 8167-8169——The Rev. Mr. M'Gee, the clergyman of Dunfanaghy, condemned these proceedings altogether, 8170-8174.

In the first instance, none but those who paid the tax got relief, 8175——Mr. Doherty has frequently returned to the parish since the bishop dismissed him, 8176, 8177——The bishop has condemned Mr. M'Fadden's proceedings, 8178-8180——Evidence showing that the bishop has expressed his indignation at the fact of Mr. Doherty's visits to the district of Gweedore, 8181-8199——Witness has never heard it stated in conversation, nor seen it in print, that the bishop had expressed an opinion that the appeal made by the clergyman was not only true, but understated in its facts, 8200-8215.

Witness firmly believes that the second petition was not a copy of the first, 8216-8231 How far Mr. Doherty had the opportunity of rebutting the allegations made against him with respect to his imposing fines upon the people for grazing their cattle on Mr. Nixon's land, 8233-8244——Evidence relative to the dismissal of Mr. Nixon's bailiff, a man of the name of Sweeney, 8245-8251——Opinion that the people of Gweedore do not appear to know what comfort means, 8265-8269——The state of their bedding and clothing is not the slightest indication of their means, 8270-8280.

Witness's firm opinion is still, and ever has been, that in the original outrage the Gweedore people killed the sheep; in the second instance of the destruction of the sheep he believes it was the outside people, 8284-8312——There is no doubt that Mr. Doherty in imposing these fines upon the people for grazing their cattle on Mr. Nixon's property was acting illegally; there was no prosecution, but there was no reason why there should not have been, 8313-8330——Witness was glad of the removal of Mr. Doherty from the parish, as it would be the saving of 2,000 *l.* a year, 8331-8336.

Evidence relative to an inflammatory address issued by the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden, in 1857; result of witness's complaint to the Government on this subject, 8337-8347——Statement made by Mr. Doherty to the people, that it was against the principle of the Tenant League that they should pay more than 1 *l.* a year for their farms, 8348-8351.

In any of the houses that witness has visited he has found very little use of sea-weed, 8352-8370——There is no doubt that the levy of the police and sheep-tax was disproportioned to the means of the people, 8371-8375——The first petition was to Parliament, the second to the Lord Lieutenant, 8377, 8378.

D.

Derrybeg Townland. The miserable description given of other townlands applies equally to the townland of Derrybeg, *Doherty* 1578.

Derryconner Townland. Number of families in the townland of Derryconner; total area of the townland; portion of commonage which has been taken away from the people; portion which has been divided into new cuts, *M'Fadden* 3523-3528. 3530-3533——The people are very poor, and very badly off for bedding, *ib.* 3529, 3534-3541——Poor condition of the people of Derryconner Mountain, as to food, bedding, and clothing; high rent they have to pay for the new cuts, *Underwood* 4039-4059.

Disease. There was not much more fever or illness in the district last summer than usual, nor during this spring has it been more unhealthy than usual, *H. M'Bride* 1020-1027——The health of the people and their general appearance is as good as witness ever saw it, *Stewart* 7832-7837. 7903-7906.

See also *Health of the District. Sickness.*

Distress. Number of families in Gweedore that are in great distress, *Doherty* 2065-2070——Opinion that there has been an increasing destitution since 1854 and 1855, *Underwood* 4215. 4228-4236——Opinion that there is no destitution whatever in the country, *Olphert* 4716-4797. 5035. 5041, 5042.——After the Committee was appointed, all the cases of destitution which have been mentioned were got up for the inspection of strangers, reporters of newspapers, and priests, *ib.* 4792-4820——Wituess was applied to by Mr. M'Fadden, in 1855, in consequence of alleged distress in his district, but he did not believe there was any distress, *ib.* 5036, 5037.

Grounds for arriving at the conclusion that there is no destitution in the district; there is no sickness arising from want of food and clothing, *Brady* 6235-6238——Evidence showing that in many of the cases which have been stated as cases of great distress on witness's property, there is no distress at all, *Nixon* 7358-7353. 7381-7389. 7391. 7399-7423——Witness would say, most unequivocally, that there is no destitution in that part of the country with which he is acquainted, *Stewart* 7800, 7801——Witness

on

Distress—continued.

on his last visit found that the people treated this alleged destitution as a sort of joke; but they were much grieved at the disturbance that had been created by the proceedings which had been going on, *Maunsell* 7942, 7943. 7961-7966.

See also Condition of the People. Famine Years. Petitions. Relief.

Doherty, Rev. John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Catholic clergyman; officiating in the parish of Meevagh, in the county of Donegal, 1262, 1263——Is honorary secretary to the committee associated for the relief of destitution at Gweedore and Cloughaneely, 1264——Evidence as to witness's connexion with the district, 1265-1272——The people have always been poor, but for the last few years their condition has greatly deteriorated, 1273——The original cause of their destitution was the taking away of the mountain commonage and the increase of rents, 1273-1277.

Number of landowners in the Gweedore district; their names; total area of their estates; extent thereof that has been taken from the tenants, 1278-1299——Extent of Lord George Hill's estate; number of acres he has taken from the tenants; rent of his estate, 1287-1292. 1300-1313——No compensation whatever was given to the tenants for the mountain land that was taken away, 1313, 1314——Injury that was done to the tenants by the taking away of this land, 1315, 1316——The land so taken away was let to sheep graziers, 1317——The destitution on Lord George Hill's estate, generally, is very great, 1318——Common use of sea-weed as an article of food, 1319-1324.

Evidence in detail showing that the circumstances of the people have much deteriorated since 1854, at which time they were gradually recovering from the effects of the famine, 1325 *et seq.*——It was at this period that they lost the mountain grazing, that the rents were increased, and the taxation also, 1329-1340——Steps which witness took in the spring of 1855, in conjunction with a brother clergyman, to afford them relief on account of the failure of the potato crop in 1854; extent to which relief was afforded, and extent to which it has been paid back, 1341-1369.

Opinion that the farms on Lord George Hill's estate are so miserably small that if the tenants are confined to them they will not be able to live; they are mere strips of land, 1370-1374. 1483——Condition of the people of the townland of Magheralosk, 1375 *et seq.*——Their general food last year was sea-weed, and very inferior potatoes, 1378-1381. 1390, 1391——Miserable state of their bedding and bed-clothes, 1382-1389——Eleven families have scarcely any coats, except in rags, and no linen whatever; the clothing of the women is not sufficient for the purposes of decency, 1392-1396.

Miserable condition of the people of the townland of Carrick; number of families in the townland, 1404 *et seq.*——Use of sea-weed in the townland as an article of food, 1405-1409. 1454, 1455——Instances showing the reduction in circumstances of the people; cases in which they have been obliged to sell their sheep to meet the taxation, 1410-1428——Case of Margaret M'Bride, who was obliged to sell her gown to pay the taxes, 1429-1433——Cases of various other parties who have been compelled to sell either their stock, their furniture, or their clothes, to meet the taxation and the increase of rent, 1434-1453——Out of the seventy families in the townland only about fourteen or fifteen have beds, and those only chaff beds, 1456-1460.

The people have been gradually deteriorating since 1854; in that year they were sufficiently clad for the purposes of decency, 1461-1464——Present wretched condition of their clothing, 1465-1474——There is very little stock now in the townland, 1475-1477——Number of acres which have been lost to the tenants since 1854; 1478, 1479. 1482——Original rent; present rent irrespective of the rent applotted on the new cuts, 1480-1482——Number of acres still in possession of the landowners for making these new cuts, 1481——The rents are much above the Government valuation, 1484-1488——Explanation of these new cuts; evidence showing that they are the means of generating a class of paupers, 1489-1510.

Evidence relative to the condition of the townland of Lunniagh, 1511——Number of families out of the thirty-one families in this townland who use sea-weed, 1512——Wretched state of their bedding and clothing, 1513-1526——Out of the thirty-one families there are about fifteen who have no stock and the others are generally reduced in circumstances, 1527, 1528——Witness attributes the deterioration of their circumstances more to the taking away of the mountain, and the raising of the rent, than to the increase of the taxation, 1529-1538——Former rent in this townland; increased rent in spite of the top lands and mountain commons having been taken away, 1542-1551——Before the mountain pasturage was taken away from them, and before the rent was increased, there is no doubt a lease would have been a great encouragement to industry, 1552——Leases under their present circumstances would be valueless to them, 1552——They have no kind of security for holding the land as long as they wish, on the contrary, they are served with a notice to quit each year; way in which this paralyses their industry, 1553-1566.

Evidence relative to the condition of the townland of Stramackilmartin; number of families in the townland; number of beds; use of sea-weed for food, 1567-1571——Evidence relative to the condition of the townland of Stranacorcragh, 1572-1577——Also of the townland of Derrybeg, 1578——The same description would also apply to

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Doherty, Rev. John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

the townland of Ardnagappary or Middletown, 1579, 1580——Instances showing that the stock belonging to the people of this townland has been greatly reduced since Lord George Hill's accession to the property, 1581-1587.

State of the townland of Meenacuin; number of families subsisting on sea-weed, 1589-1598——Reduction in the stock of the people; increase in the rents; number of acres of commonage which were taken away, 1599-1605——With regard to their food, bedding, and clothing, the people of the townland of Magheraclogher are in the same state as the other townlands, 1606-1608—— Great increase in the rents in the townland of Tor; large amount of the taxes levied on this district, 1609-1620——Steps which were taken to collect the police tax; great straits to which the people were driven in order to meet this tax, 1621-1661.

Rate of wages in the district, 1662-1682——Great extent to which the rents have been raised in the townland of Monaghy, 1684-1692——The description witness has given of the other townlands would apply to the food, bedding, and clothing of this townland, 1693-1697—— Rise in the rents of the townland of Baltinny, 1698-1701—— Old rent and new rent in the townland of Crolly; the people are very poor, and live on sea-weed, 1702-1712.

[Second Examination.]—There are only a few tenants in the townland of Loughkiel; they are not so badly off as they are in the other townlands, 1713, 1714——The reason witness assigns for this is, that though Mrs. Russell has threatened to increase the rent, they do not as yet pay any increased rent, 1714——Acreage of the townland of Brinlack; valuation in 1840; valuation in 1857; old rent on each cow's grass; present rent, 1717-1740 ——A general increase of rent has taken place on Mr. Nixon's property since 1853; about the same time as the raising of the rents on Lord George Hill's estate, 1741-1744. 1768, 1769—— The commonage of the mountain on Mr. Nixon's estate has been taken away from the tenantry, and he is charging for grazing, 1745-1749. 1770-1773.

Mr. Nixon charges the poor-rates to the tenants although they are rented under 4 *l.*, 1750-1760. 1774, 1775——They are also charged kelp money for the liberty of making kelp of the sea-weed, 1761-1767. 1776——The people are very poor, 1777——Sea-weed enters substantially into their dietage; they would suffer extreme hunger without it, 1778, 1779——The people had formerly the privilege of grazing their cattle upon the sandbanks; Mr. Nixon has deprived them of this privilege, and lets it at 2*s.* 6*d.* per cow's grass, 1780-1782——Encroachment of the sand upon the arable land in this townland, 1783-1785——The clothing of the people on this townland is very bad, 1786-1796.

Evidence relative to the townland of Meenacladdy, of which Mr. Woodhouse is the landlord; extent to which the rent has been raised there, 1797-1800——A considerable portion of the mountain was taken away from the people, but a portion has been restored, 1801-1803——The people in this district are not so poor, as regards stock, as they are in some of the other districts, 1804, 1805.

Wretched condition of the people in the townland of Glashercoo, of which Mr. Wybrants Olphert is the landlord; their bedding and clothing could not be worse than it is, 1806-1814——The same may be said with respect to the townland of Keeldrum in Cloughaneely, of which Mr. Wybrants Olphert is also the landlord, 1815-1830——The description which witness has given of the other places will apply to the food of this townland, 1831-1833.

If relief had not been given to them they would have been reduced to a state of extreme destitution, 1834——The people in the townland of Ballyloes, of which the Rev. Mr. Nixon is the landlord, are very poor, 1835-1841——The people in the townland of Dunmore are very poor; the landlord is Lord Leitrim, 1842-1846——Extent to which the rent has been increased since 1853 in the townland of Moneymore, the property of Lord Leitrim, 1847-1850——The tenants have lost the use of the mountains, and Lord Leitrim holds the lands in fee in his own possession, 1851-1856——In cases where the people had not cattle sufficient of their own they took in the cattle of other people and received money for it; this means of obtaining a living has now been taken away from them, 1857-1884.

Explanation relative to the notion that has prevailed among the people that they were refused the right to take away the sea-weed, 1885-1891——It is only on Mr. Nixon's estate that there is a practice of paying rent for the sea-weed used for making kelp, 1891-1894. 2072——Evidence as to there having been a conviction against some persons who live at a considerable distance from Gweedore for having stolen and kept some of the sheep of the people of the district, 1895-1939——Witness does not believe that there is any wide-spread conspiracy with a view to effect the destruction of the sheep belonging to the Scotch and English settlers in the district of Gweedore, 1895-1939. 2146-2163. 2167-2172. 2177-2190.

Witness has always impressed upon the people the necessity of preserving peace, good order, and morality, 1940-1943——The moral character of the people is very good, 1944 ——Appeal witness made to the public for the relief of these people, and result thereof, with

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Doherty, Rev. John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

with particulars as to the appropriation and distribution of the sum collected, 1945-1965 ——Evidence showing that although some portion of the mountain has been left to the tenantry of Lord Hill, it is valueless to them, 1966-1968——Witness denies the statement of Mr. Olphert that the people of Cloughaneely are better clothed this year than they have been for some years past, 1969-1971.

There are portions of Cloughaneely that may have the means of sustenance, but the portions which lost the mountain and suffer from taxation have not the means of supporting themselves, 1972——Reasons why the sale of a large quantity of herrings in Burtonport would be no evidence of prosperity in Gweedore, 1973-1978——Shoes and stockings are not generally worn among the lower classes of women in Ireland, 1979-1982——The people of this district were tolerably comfortably clad previously to 1854; 1983——The new cuts were generally left to natives of the district, 1984-1989——Way in which witness accounts for the fact that in February 1856 there were forty-one people in the workhouse against twenty-eight in 1857, and twenty-two in 1858; 1989-1993.

The district of Gweedore is at the present time, generally speaking, healthy, 1994-1996 ——Particulars relative to the death of Bell M'Bride from starvation, 1997-2015——Witness does not agree with the statement that has been made that Lord George Hill's purchase of this estate has done a positive harm to the tenantry, 2016——But he maintains that if the taking away of the mountains and the rack-renting are persisted in, the people will not be able to live, 2016——Witness would not at all deny that the average rent on Lord George Hill's estate is from 2*s.* to 3*s.* an acre, 2017-2021.

The tenants have always been paid the usual amount of tenant right when the lands have been taken from them, 2022-2024——Higher wages are paid for making kelp than for any other description of labour, but there is great risk in it, 2026——Externally the habitations have improved within the last ten or twelve years, 2027——Reason why the fact of 600 *l.* worth of stockings having been sold by people on Lord George Hill's property is no indication of their prosperity, 2028-2031——Witness would say that the district of Gweedore is much worse off in 1858 than it was in 1848; 2032-2053——Witness never heard of any of the people consuming sea-weed from choice, 2054-2060.

The people have never suffered from the want of fuel, but they are now complaining that the place where they have been in the habit of cutting turf is being parcelled out into cuts, 2061-2064——Number of families in Gweedore that are in distress, 2065-2070 ——A considerable amount of income has been derived from the sale of kelp, 2071-2078.

Great desire of many of the people to emigrate, if they had the means, 2079-2088. 2142-2145——Objection to the system of cuts; it impoverishes the country, 2089-2095 ——Witness does not agree with the assertion that has been made that it is Lord George Hill's intention to exterminate the race, 2091, 2092——Although the rents have been raised, they have been punctually though not cheerfully paid within the last two years, 2096-2110.

Great dearth of employment generally in the district; the people go very much out of the district for the purpose of obtaining wages; they go to Scotland, and, in the harvest, to England, 2111-2138——Illicit distillation is gradually decreasing, 2139-2141——If a system of emigration were introduced into the district, it would be of great use, 2142-2145. 2176——Under the present system of exercising the rights of the landlord, the people will not be able to continue in the country, 2176——If anything like a labour-market could be brought into the district, the people would be most willing to work, 2176.

[Third Examination.]—Explanation as to the signatures to the second petition being all in witness's handwriting, 8707.

Doherty, Rev. Mr. Refusal of the Rev. Mr. Doherty to pay witness the rent of a house which he occupied, *Lord G. Hill* 6896-6909——Numerous instances in which the Rev. Mr. Doherty, the Roman-catholic priest, has paid people for sending cattle to graze upon Mr. Nixon's land, *Cruice* 8053-8058. 8167-8169——Particulars as to witness having gone subsequently to protect the bailiff of Mr. Nixon in driving off cattle from his, Mr. Nixon's, land, which the tenants had driven on and endeavoured forcibly to keep there; evidence as to the Rev. Mr. Doherty having assisted the people to do this, *ib.* 8059, 8060. 8252-8264——Communication witness made, after this occurrence, to the Roman-catholic bishop of the diocese, *ib.* 8065, 8066——He fully concurred with witness as to the improper course which Mr. Doherty had pursued on this occasion, *ib.* 8067, 8068.

Reference to a statement made to witness by the bishop as to his intention of removing Mr. Doherty; ultimately the bishop did remove him from the parish, *Cruice* 8090-8092 ——Evidence showing that the bishop has expressed his indignation at the fact of Mr. Doherty's visits to the district of Gweedore, *ib.* 8181-8199——How far Mr. Doherty had the opportunity of rebutting the allegations made against him with respect to his imposing fines upon the people for grazing their cattle on Mr. Nixon's land, *ib.* 8233-8244——

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Doherty, Rev. Mr.—continued.

There is no doubt that Mr. Doherty, in imposing these fines upon the people for grazing their cattle on Mr. Nixon's property, was acting illegally, *Cruice* 8313-8330.

Donegal County. Belief that the people in Donegal are far better off in substantial comforts, such as food, stock, and things of that sort, as well as in money, than the people in many other counties in Ireland, *Nixon* 7437-7451——Witness would distinctly say that the people of this part of the county of Donegal are better off than those of the counties of Kerry and Galway, *Maunsell* 7967-7979.

Down County. Witness has never seen anything in the county of Down, at any period to be compared with the condition of the people of Gweedore, *W. S. Crawford* 4634-4653.

"*Dublin Evening Post.*" Witness is connected with the "Dublin Evening Post;" was sent by the editor, Mr. Conway, to visit the districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, *Williams* 1197, 1198.

Dunfanaghy Union. After the publication of the address relative to the state of distress in the district of Gweedore, witness saw the resolution published by the Board of Guardians denying the state of destitution; witness believes that the Board are not justified in making this statement, *W. S. Crawford* 4679-4684. 4689-4691 —— Witness was present at the meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Dunfanaghy Union when the resolution was passed denying the destitution alleged to be existing in the public appeal of the Roman-catholic clergy, *Olphert* 4956-4983——Evidence relative to a second meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Dunfanaghy Union in connexion with this subject, *ib.* 5360-5391——Parties present at this meeting; resolutions come to by the meeting, showing that there was anything but distress in the district of Cloughaneely, *ib.* 5366——Witness was also confirmed in his opinion by the resolution of the Dunfanaghy Board of Guardians, *Hamilton* 8650-8653——Copies of the correspondence between the guardians of the Dunfanaghy Union and the Poor Law Commissioners respecting the state of the district, and of the report of Mr. Hamilton, the Poor Law Inspector, *App. p.* 1.

Dunmore Townland. In the townland of Dunmore the people are very poor; the landlord is Lord Leitrim, *Doherty* 1842-1846——Condition of the townland of Dunmore, of which the Earl of Leitrim is landlord, *M'Fadden* 3317 *et seq.*——Case of a man named Owen M'Causland, showing the distress of the people in the townland of Dunmore, *M'Groarty* 3836-3840. 3851-3854.

Duty-days. The people complain of having been compelled to work gratuitously for the landlords on certain days called duty-days; explanation of this system, *Holland* 2388-2394. 2492-2506——Evidence relative to duty-days being charged to the people on Mr. Nixon's property, *M'Fadden* 3227-3234——Complaint of the people of the townland of Ray of there being duty-days, *Underwood* 4199-4200——The system of duty-days is nearly exploded, *Olphert* 4876, 4877.

Witness has never taken duty-days, *Woodhouse* 5901——There is no duty-work on witness's property, *Lord G. Hill* 6746——Evidence showing that the original possessor of witness's property charged duty-days; it was part of the rent of the land; witness is endeavouring to abolish this system, *Nixon* 7311, 7312. 7511-7532.

E.

Ejectments. Instance in which witness has known Lord George Hill turn out a tenant, *T. M'Bride* 2735-2740——Witness has never ejected a single tenant, *Woodhouse* 5902, 5903——Witness has never ejected any one tenant, *Lord G. Hill* 6768——His object has always been to enable them to live on the land which they occupy, and to make them as comfortable as he could, *ib.* 6769, 6770——With this view witness has spent a large sum of money, independently of his rent, *ib.* 6770-6772.——*See* also *Notices to Quit.*

Emigration. Great desire of many of the people to emigrate if they had the means, *Doherty* 2079-2088. 2142-2145——If a system of emigration were introduced into the district it would be of great use, *ib.* 2142-2145. 2176——Witness does not now see any remedy under Heaven but emigration, *M'Fadden* 3674-3677——The people cannot subsist unless the mountain pastures which were taken from them are returned, or they are enabled to emigrate, *M'Groarty* 3843-3849——Emigration would be one remedy, *Underwood* 4226——Very few people have emigrated from the district, and some of these have returned, *Lord G. Hill* 6869-6879.

Employment. Great dearth of employment generally in the district; the people go very much out of it for the purpose ofobtaining wages; they go to Scotland, and in the harvest to England, *Doherty* 2111-2138——If anything like a labour market could be brought into the district the people would be most willing to work, *ib.* 2176——There is

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Employment—continued.

no employment for the people; no manufacturing employment, no labour employment, *Underwood* 4239-4243——There is little employment for the people, and when they do get employment it is a very low rate of wages, *W. S. Crawford* 4627.

Witness has instructions from Lord George Hill to see that no poor person is in want, and also to employ all the able-bodied labourers who may require work, *Robertson* 7060——In former years, when these was distress, witness had numerous applications for work; he has had none this year, *Nixon* 7464, 7465——The people hardly labour at all during the winter, *ib.* 7477-7480.

See also *Fishing. Kelp Trade. Stocking Trade. Wages. Work.*

Encroachments. Witness does not recollect any tenant wishing to give up his farm because the sand encroached upon it, *Lord G. Hill* 6757, 6758——Where the sand has encroached upon the land witness has given the people a tract of mountain in compensation, *Nixon* 7334-7337.——*See* also *Compensation. Sand-hills.*

Extermination of the Race. It was witness's impression that Lord George Hill wished to exterminate the whole race, *Williams* 1248-1253——Witness does not agree with the assertion that has been made that it is Lord George Hill's intention to exterminate the race, *Doherty* 2091, 2092——Any evidence describing Lord George Hill as an exterminator of the people is a gross libel, *Brady* 6273, 6274.

F.

Famine Years. The state of the district was good in the famine years of 1848 and 1849 as compared with what it is now. *H. M'Bride* 972. 976-981. 1006-1019——What witness saw in Gweedore was a more deplorably degraded state of destitution than he ever saw in the most distressed parts of Ireland in the famine years of 1848 and 1849, *Williams* 1231-1245——Evidence in detail showing that the circumstances of the people have much deteriorated since 1854, at which time they were gradually recovering from the effects of the famine, *Doherty* 1325 *et seq.*——Witness has not seen the people so badly off since the famine year as they are at the present time, *Gallagher* 2886, 2887——Opinion that the people are worse off now than they were at the time of the famine in 1848 and 1849, *Ferry* 3052-3070.

Witness is distinctly of opinion that the people are better off generally than they were in the famine years in point of health, clothing, and food, *Olphert* 4943——The relief distributed at the time of the famine was a difficult thing to manage, and some few may have got relief then who ought not to have done so, *ib.* 5745, 5746——Witness is intimately acquainted with the district; the people are in much better circumstances now than they were at the time of the famine, *Robertson* 6960-6962——No parallel can be drawn between the present condition of the people of Gweedore and the people of Erris and Tyrawley at the time of the famine, *Hamilton* 8629-8643.

See also *Workhouses.*

Farmers. See *Tenant Farmers.*

Farms. See *Holdings.*

Ferry, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Lives at Arduns, in Gweedore, on Lord George Hill's property; extent of land witness holds; former rent thereof and present rent, 2920-2932——Witness had the privilege of grazing on the mountain up to last year, 2933-2937——Has been obliged to part with some of his stock and crop to pay the taxes, 2938-2944. 2997-2999. 3015. 3071, 3072——Witness knows that some of the people of Dore have been obliged to do the same, 2945, 2946.

Number of witness's family; has been compelled to eat sea-weed to make his potatoes last out; his bedding and his clothing and that of his family was very wretched till he got relief from the relief fund; extent to which he got relief, 2947-2960. 2965-2969. 3006-3014. 3073-3075——More sea-weed has been used this last year as an article of food than witness ever knew used before, 2961-2964——Witness knows many of the people in the townland of Dore that have been compelled to sell their stock to pay the taxes, 2970-2975——They were very badly off for bedding and clothing before the relief came, 2976-2978.

The usual rate of wages is from 8*d.* to 10*d.* a day, and there is not much employment at that, 2979-2989. 3024-3027——For a couple of summers witness worked at kelp-making, but did not work at it last summer, as he could not make anything of it, 3000-3005——Witness's land at Arduns is not one of the new cuts; he got it by marriage, 3016-3018——Witness does not believe that the Scotchmen's sheep that were lost on the mountains were killed out of spite, although it has been so reported, 3019-3023. 3028-3051.

Witness believes that a great part of them died in the mountains; they fell into holes and died there, 3020. 3028-3051——Opinion that the people are worse off now than they

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Ferry, James. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

were at the time of the famine in 1848 and 1849; 3052-3070——The people do not like going into the workhouse, as they think they have bad usage there, and they are obliged to give up their own cabins before they go in, 3076-3110.

Filth. The interior of their houses is no criterion of their real condition; those who are in comfortable circumstances live in the same state of filth and dirt as the others, *Hamilton* 8612.

Fishing. There is fishing in the district, and some few of the people go out fishing, but it is merely line-fishing, and they care very little about it, *T. M'Bride* 2669-2685——There is but little fishing on the coast, and what little they catch is for their own use and not for market, *Olphert* 4916-4922.——*See* also *Herring Fishery.*

Flax. See *Crops.*

Food. The people are not so well fed as they were; they have but two scanty meals daily, barely sufficient for one meal, and these are principally composed of dolamaun, a kind of sea-weed, *H. M'Bride* 38-46. 305-312. 564. 574-589. 832-840——With regard to their food, bedding, and clothing, the people of the townland of Magheraclogher are in the same wretched state as in the other townlands, *Doherty* 1606-1608——The description witness has given of the other townlands will apply also to the food, bedding, and clothing of the townland of Moneybeg, *ib.* 1693-1697——Description of the houses, furniture, beds, bedding, and clothing of some of the people of the district; they appeared to be wretchedly fed, *Underwood* 3952-3981. 3997-4001.

Witness does not believe that the people suffered last winter from the want of food, *Hunter* 6061-6064——On the occasion of witness's visit to the district the people did not appear to be suffering from want of food, *Hamilton* 8579-8584.

See also *Crops. Distress. Oatmeal. Potatoes. Relief. Sea-weed.*

Frauds. After having found the fraud they were practising as regarded the hiding of their bed clothes, witness gave up his inquiries, *Olphert* 5048-5050. 5056-5060——Witness was an eye-witness of some of the deception that was carried on at the time this inspection and relief was going on; *Brady* 6369-6375. 6396-6434——Opinion that there was a general disposition among the people of the district to conceal their real state from the visitors, *Young* 8449. 8450-8460.——*See* also *Stock.*

Fuel. The people have never suffered from the want of fuel; but they are now complaining that the places where they have been in the habit of cutting turf is being parcelled out into cuts, *Doherty* 2061-2064——The people of Magheralosk are very badly off for fuel, *T. M'Bride* 2564, 2565——The people are well off for fuel, *Lord G. Hill* 6744, 6745.

See also *Turf.*

Furniture. Wretched state of the people with respect to furniture, clothing, and bedding, *M'Fadden* 3216-3221; *W. S. Crawford* 4622; *James Crawford* 4696-4698. 4704, 4705——On the occasion of witness's visit to the district he found that their furniture was rude and the bedding bad; they had bed clothes, but they were very very filthy, *Hamilton* 8607-8611.——*See* also *Bedding. Clothing.*

G.

Gallagher, Charles. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Holds half a cow's grass under Lord George Hill; the rent of it is 8*s.* now; it was formerly 4*s.*, 2823-2827. 2888-2894——Has seven in family; this land would not support them more than a quarter of the year; the rest of the time they subsist on turnips and sea-weed, or dolamaun, 2828-2830. 2835-2839——Witness employs himself as a labourer when he can find employment; wages are from 6*d.* to 10*d.* a day, 2831-2834. 2907-2913——Description of witness's bed, 2840-2843——Witness knows one of his neighbours that is worse off than himself, 2844-2846——Evidence as to the condition of witness's furniture and bedding, 2847-2852.

Witness is employed by the people of Magheragallan as shore bailiff, to prevent the people of other districts from taking away the sea-weed, 2853-2861——Much more of it has been consumed as an article of food this year than witness has ever known before, 2862-2865——There is no mountain left now to the people of the townland of Magheragallan, and the rents have been raised at the same time, 2866-2877.

The clothing of the people is in a very bad condition; the women's clothing is not sufficient for the purposes of decency, 2878-2885——Witness has not seen the people so badly off since the famine year as they are now, 2886, 2887——Witness has been obliged to sell the clothing he had to pay the sheep tax and the police tax, 2895-2898——Way in which the taking away of the mountain was a detriment to witness, although he had no stock, 2899-2903——If witness had not got relief from the relief fund he would not now be living, 2904-2906. 2914-2919.

Glashercoo

Report, 1857-8—*continued.*

Glashercoo Townland. Wretched condition of the people in the townland of Glashercod, of which Mr. Wybrants Olphert is the landlord; their bedding and clothing could not be worse than it is, *Doherty* 1806-1814.

Glasheron Townland. Particular description of the people of the townland of Glasheron, showing their destitute condition as regards food, clothing, and bedding, *Underwood* 3982. 3996. 4002-4009——The rents have been raised in this townland, and the people have little stock left, *ib.* 3987-3989. 4002, 4003.

Glasshagh Townland. The Rev. Alexander Nixon the proprietor of the townland of Glasshagh, *Doherty* 1741. 1768——Witness is proprietor of the townland of Glasshagh; the condition of the people is remarkably prosperous, *Nixon* 7731-7731.

See also *Clothing*, I. 2. IV. *Condition of the People.*

GRAZING:

I. *Allegations made that the taking away of the Mountain Grazing has been the great Cause of the Distress of the People:*

II. *Complaints of the People of various Townlands on this Subject:*

1. Baltoney.
2. Carrick.
3. Dore.
4. Dunmore.
5. Lunniagh.
6. Magheragallen.
7. Meenacladdy.
8. Meenaduff.
9. Middletown.
10. Moneymore.

III. *Evidence showing that a sufficient Quantity of the Mountain Commonage has been left to the People.*

IV. *Observations of the Committee.*

I. *Allegations made that the taking away of the Mountain Grazing has been the great Cause of the Distress of the People:*

The people had the right of grazing in the mountains without paying anything for it, *M'Bride* 128-132——The cutting off of the mountain grazing has done the people great injury, *ib.* 290-304——The misery of the people of these districts is principally owing to the taking away of the mountain pasturage, *ib.* 776-780——The tenants of Lord George Hill have no mountain grazing whatever now, *ib.* 1069-1072——Witness would say that the destitution in the districts which have been spoken of arises mainly from the mountain pastures being taken away, *Browne* 1155-1158——The people attribute their destitution to the deprivation of the mountain tops and the mountain commonage, *Williams* 1248-1253——The original cause of their destitution was the taking away the mountain commonage and the increase of rents, *Doherty* 1273-1277, 1315, 1316. 1329-1340.

The commonage on the mountain on Mr. Nixon's estate has been taken away from the tenantry, and he is charging for grazing, *Doherty* 1745-1749. 1770-1773——Evidence showing that although some portion of the mountain has been left to the tenantry of Lord George Hill it is valueless to them, *ib.* 1966-1968——The principal cause of the destitution that the people gave to witness was the taking away of large tracts of mountain land from them, *Holland* 2381-2388——Way in which the taking away of the mountain was a detriment to witness, although he had no stock, *Gallagher* 2899-2903——The people on Mr. Nixon's property had formerly mountain commonage, and reclaimed bog land, on which they raised large crops of oats, *M'Fadden* 3140-3142. 3169-3172.

When Mr. Nixon became the proprietor of these townlands he deprived the people of mountain commonage, and also of many acres of reclaimed land, *M'Fadden* 3143-3150——They have now lost the mountain grazing; their rent has been raised, and the stock much reduced in consequence, *ib*, 3286-3302——Suffering of the people from taking away of the mountain pasturage, *Boyle* 4505, 4506. 4510-4512——Witness was told that the poverty of the people had been aggravated by the withdrawal of the liberty of commonage on the mountains and the raising of the rents, *W. S. Crawford* 4627——If they keep stock at all, it is essential for the people to have pasturage on the mountain, *ib.* 4670, 4671.

II. *Complaints of the People of various Townlands on this Subject:*

1. Baltoney:

The people of the townland of Baltoney attribute their poverty principally to the fact of the mountain having been taken away from them, *M'Fadden* 3386, 3387; *Underwood* 4190-4194.

2. Carrick:

The people had the right of the mountain grazing, and the use of the top lands for cutting turf; this has been taken away from them, and made into new cuts for fresh tenants, *H. M'Bride* 388-406—— Lord George Hill is the owner of the property, *ib.* 392 Number of acres that have been lost to the tenants since 1854, *Doherty* 1478, 1479. 1482.

Report, 1857-8—*continued.*

GRAZING—continued.

II. *Complaints of the People of various Townlands on this Subject*—continued.

3. Dore:

The people formerly had commonage for their cattle, but have not got it now, *M'Bride* 534, 535.

4. Dunmore:

The people have been deprived of the mountain, and are charged for grazing, *M'Fadden* 3320, 3321.

5. Lunniagh:

Witness attributes the deterioration of their circumstances more to the taking away of the mountain, and the raising of the rent, than to the increase of the taxation, *Doherty* 1529-1538.

6. Magheragallen:

The people of this townland are miserably poor; they have lost the mountain grazing, *H. M'Bride* 508-512——There is now no mountain land left to the people of the townland of Magheragallen, and the rents have been raised at the same time, *Gallagher* 2866-2877.

7. Meenacladdy:

A considerable portion of the mountain was taken away from the people, but a portion has been restored, *Doherty* 1801-1803——Witness has done everything he can to satisfy the claims of the people in this townland, but it has all gone for nothing, *Woodhouse* 5852——Witness does not believe that his tenantry in Meenacladdy ever had the right of grazing on the mountains, *ib.* 5996-6001.

8. Meenaduff:

The right of commonage has been taken away from them, and the number of head of cattle and horses has been much reduced, *M'Bride* 487-498. 502, 503.

9. Middletown:

The mountain grazing has been taken away from the people in the townland of Middletown, *M'Bride* 263.

10. Moneymore:

The tenants here lost the use of the mountains, and Lord Leitrim holds the land in fee in his own possession, *Doherty* 1851-1856——In cases where people had not cattle sufficient of their own, they took in the cattle of other people, and received payment for it; this means of obtaining a living has now been taken from them, *ib.* 1857-1884.

III. *Evidence showing that a sufficient Quantity of the Mountain Commonage has been left to the People:*

Evidence showing that witness has taken no mountain from the people in any of the townlands belonging to him, except in Upper Keeldrum, *Olphert* 4822-4832. 4899——In this townland he has taken 2,000 acres, as the people had not nearly sufficient stock to stock it, and he thought it better to turn it into a grazing farm than to let it lie waste, *ib.* 4822-4832——These 2,000 acres have subsequently been let to a Scotchman, *ib.* 4829——Explanation relative to the statement that was made by Mr. M'Fadden in his evidence, that witness had taken the mountain of Magherarvarty from his tenants, *ib.* 5754.

The statement that has been made, that the proprietors taking away the mountains is one cause of the destitution of the people, is totally false, *Woodhouse* 5801——Reasons why witness considers that he left the tenants a sufficient portion of the mountain grazing; extent in acres which was laid off for them; proportion witness retained in his own possession, *ib.* 5826-5838. 5927-5929——Witness divided his part from that which was returned to the people by a ditch, for the making of which he paid, *ib.* 5838, 5839——Witness's next step was to endeavour to let it, but the priests would not allow it to be let, and there is now no prospect of getting it let, *ib.* 5838. 5840. 5842-5851.

Both on Lord George Hill's and Mr. Olphert's property, the people have much more mountain grazing than they have cattle for, *Hunter* 6100-6108——Some of the grazing land was divided at the time witness purchased the property; witness left sufficient grazing for the whole of the tenants, according to the opinion of Mr. Montgomery, the eminent surveyor, *Lord G. Hill* 6660. 6664. 6683-6689——The people appeared perfectly satisfied with witness's arrangements, *ib.* 6660. 6683-6689——No mountain pasturage has been taken away from the tenants since 1841, *ib.* 6792. 6797——Witness denies that the people used for grazing the mountains which he had taken into his own possession up to 1853 or 1854, *ib.* 6798-6811——If their cattle strayed upon these mountains they were impounded, *ib.* 6801. 6806-6811.

The arrangement that was made on Lord George Hill's property was, that there was a certain quantity of the mountain laid off for the use of the tenants, and a certain quantity

as

Report, 1857-8—*continued.*

GRAZING—continued.

III. *Evidence showing that a sufficient Quantity, &c.*—continued.

as the landlord's share, *Robertson* 6945-6954——The tenantry were perfectly satisfied with the arrangements; a sufficiency of grazing was laid off for all the stock they had, *ib.* 6945-6954——Lord George Hill paid taxes and cesses for his portion, and there never was any privilege of any sort for the tenants to graze upon it, *ib.* 6955-6959——The complaint of the people is, that they are not allowed to trespass over the whole of the mountain; although the boundary is not fenced, it is well defined, and the people are well aware of it, *ib,* 7091-7102.

Witess has always held some of the mountain in his own hands; he would not have bought the property, except for the use of these mountains, *Nixon* 7263-7266——The taking of these mountains cannot have the least relation to the present distress, as witness has had them so long, *ib.* 7267——Circumstances under which witness has let, or endeavoured to let, a portion of these mountains, *ib.* 7268, 7269. 7272-7281——Circumstances under which witness charges 1 *d.* a head for grazing on these mountains, *ib.* 7282.

Witness is well acquainted with Mr. Olphert's property, *Stewart* 7791——Grounds for forming the opinion that his tenants have more than sufficient grazing, independently of the portion that has been let to Scotchmen, *ib.* 7792-7796——Grounds for forming the opinion that the tenants of Lord George Hill have more than sufficient grazing land, independently of the portion that has been let to Scotchmen, *ib.* 7797, 7798——The tenants had a sufficient quantity of grazing land allotted to them for any stock which they possessed, *Sweeney* 8000.

IV. *Observations of the Committee:*

Statement of the Committee that an erroneous opinion exists in the minds of these people as to their right over the mountains near which they reside, *Rep. p.* iii.

See also *County Cess.* *Doherty, Rev. Mr.* *New Cuts.*

H.

Hamilton, Richard. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has held the office of Poor Law Inspector eleven years, 8529-8532——Districts in which witness has served, and number of years he has served in each, 8533-8539——Witness was instructed by the Poor Law Commissioners to make a report to them respecting the condition of the peasantry in the Gweedore and Cloughaneely district on 16 February 1858; 8540——On 22 February witness proceeded to the Milford Union, and made inquiries at the Milford workhouse, and was told by the Board of Guardians that there were no indications of distress in that union, 8541, 8542.

Witness proceeded to Dunfanaghy; the guardians all reported that there was no distress in the district, 8543-8550——Witness made also inquiries of other parties as to the extent of the distress and received the same report, that there was no distress at all, 8551-8556——Witness afterwards made inquiries at Cross Roads, and found that the condition of the people was as good as it had been of late years, if not better, 8557-8559.

Witness met with the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden who told him that the distress was general; but he could not swear to the facts stated in the appeal which he had signed, 8559-8566. 8661, 8662. 8681-8690. 8700, 8701——He attributed the distress to excessive taxation and increased rents, 8560——After this witness proceeded to the Gweedore Hotel and made a more minute inspection of the district; names of the townlands he visited; was accompanied by Head-constable Young, and the cess collector, Gallagher, 8567-8575.

The result of witness's inspection was to convince him that there was no destitution at the time of his visit; it was impossible it could have existed without his observing it, 8575-8618——The people did not appear to be suffering from want of food, 8579-8584——Witness found cattle in nearly all the houses he visited, 8585-8588——In every case he found potatoes either stored in the house or pitted outside, 8589-8596——The sanitary state of the district was good, 8597, 8598.

Witness did not see any sea-weed in their houses, 8599——Did not observe any want of clothing, 8600-8603——The insides of the houses were very dirty and filthy; there were manure heaps in several, 8604-8606——Their furniture was rude and their bedding bad; they had bed clothes, but they were very filthy, 8607-8611——The interior of their houses is no criterion of their real condition; those who are in comfortable circumstances live in the same state of filth and dirt as the others, 8612.

These people never work during the winter, 8613, 8614——There is no doubt that the police and sheep taxes must have pressed severely upon the people, 8619-8622——Generally speaking, the farms are too small to support the family, but they have most of them other resources besides the produce of the land, 8623-8625——No parallel can be

Report, 1857-8—*continued.*

Hamilton, Richard. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

drawn between the present condition of the people of Gweedore and the people of Erris and Tyrawley at the time of the famine, 8629-8643.

Witness examined several gentlemen at the Gweedore Hotel, and they all confirmed the observations witness himself had made, 8644-8649——Witness was also confirmed in his opinion by the resolution of the Dunfanaghy Board of Guardians, 8650-8653——The distribution of gratuitous relief to the Irish poor is very injurious to them; it paralyses all exertion, 8656——Witness did not keep any account as to the number of houses he visited in the district, 8665-8669——Number of townlands witness visited in the district, 8691-8693.

Health of the District. The district of Gweedore is at the present time, generally speaking, healthy, *Doherty* 1994-1996——The district may generally be considered a healthy district, but there has been a good deal of sickness lately, *M'Fadden* 3702-3706——The district is not, generally speaking, unhealthy, but there are many cases of scrofula, arising from low living; the people have, many of them, a death-like appearance, *Underwood* 4282-4294——The sanitary state of the district was good at the time of witness's tour of inspection, *Hamilton* 8597, 8598——Return showing the number of patients attended at the dispensaries and visited at their residences in 1846, 1847, 1848, and 1849, by Mr. J. F. Brady, *App. p.* 28——Similar return for 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, and 1857, *ib.*

See also *Disease. Sickness.*

Herring Fishery. Reasons why the sale of a large quantity of herrings in Burtonport would be no evidence of prosperity in Gweedore, *Doherty* 1973-1978.

Hill, Lord George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Purchased property in the district of Gweedore in 1838; had previously visited the district in 1834; 6632-6636——When witness purchased the property the district was in a very poor state, 6637, 6638——Witness hands in a petition of a man named Patrick M'Kye, presented to the Lord Lieutenant in 1837, showing this to have been the case, 6638-6640——Extent of property witness purchased; improvements he made thereon, 6641 *et seq.*

At Bunbeg witness built a harbour and pier and quay entirely at his own expense, 6642-6646——Built also a corn-mill, 6647, 6648——And a school-house; this was licensed for Divine service by the bishop of the diocese, and witness built a glebe-house, 6649-6651——Built a large store and a shop, but has nothing to do with it except to receive the rent, 6652-6657——When witness first purchased it, it was held in rundale, and witness had it surveyed and laid out in separate farms, 6658-6660——Some of the grazing land was also divided, but witness left sufficient grazing for the whole of the tenants, according to the opinion of Mr. Montgomery, the eminent surveyor, 6660. 6664. 6683-6689——The people appeared perfectly satisfied with witness's arrangements, 6660. 6683-6689.

Witness has paid county cess and all taxes upon his share of this grazing, 6660-6663. 6665, 6666——Upon his portion witness has always exercised the rights of ownership, without dispute, ever since the allotment, 6667-6670. 6687-6689——After these allotments were made the tenants remained at the old rent for fourteen years; the raised rental is about equal to the Government valuation, which is under the letting value, 6671-6676——For the last twenty years witness has expended his time and his means in improving the condition of the people of this district, 6677-6679.

Witness built the Gweedore Hotel, 6680-6683——Witness has always attended to the wants of the people when they have applied to him for assistance, to the utmost of his power, 6690-6693——There was a little demur when the rents were first raised in 1854, but they have since been paid cheerfully; there have been no ejectments, 6694-6698.

Witness, in consequence of the outrages which had been committed, left the district and was away twelve months, but returned there for a couple of days in May last, 6699, 6700——Witness did not then see any appearance of destitution, 6701-6708——Witness has never taken any land from any tenant without paying the usual tenant right, 6709, 6710——Refutation of the statement made by Hugh M'Bride in his evidence that witness would not allow any competition with people that he had set up in business, 6711-6718.

Circumstances under which witness did prevent a man of the name of Paddy Mulligan from setting up a public-house, 6719-6727——There are some sorts of sea-weed that are used by people of all classes, but witness knows nothing about what is called dolamaun, 6738, 6739——When witness was down in May last the dress of the people was the same as it had always been, 6740-6743——The people are well off for fuel, 6744, 6745——There is no duty-work on witness's property, 6746.

No payment has ever been required from the people for taking sea-weed on the shore, or using it, 6747, 6748——Comparative statement of the condition of the district in 1838, and its present condition, 6749 *et seq.*——The result of this statement shows that it is not the frightful place that it is represented to be, 6753——Witness discharged Thomas Hugh M'Bride because he considered him to be an unfaithful servant, 6754——Witness does not

Report, 1857-8—*continued.*

Hill, Lord George. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

not recollect M'Bride ever having told him that his tenants were gradually falling into poverty, 6755, 6756.

Witness does not recollect any tenant wishing to give up his farm because the sand encroached upon it, 6757, 6758——The rents have always been collected in November, 6759-6761——Witness has received notices threatening his life unless he did justice to his tenants; he has nothing to reproach himself with in that way, 6762-6766——This was after the Scotch farmer took the mountains, 6767——Witness has never ejected any one tenant, 6768——His object has always been to enable them to live on the land which they occupy, and to make them as comfortable as he could, 6769, 6670——With this view witness has spent a large sum of money, independently of his rent, 6770-6772.

The whole of witness's tenants hold land, 6773, 6774——Refutation of the slanderous allegations against witness contained in the petition to the House of Commons in 1857, and which petition was rejected, 6775-6778.

[Second Examination.]—Further evidence as to the improvements witness has made in the district of Gweedore, 6779-6791——No mountain pasturage has been taken away from the tenants since 1841; 6792-6797——Witness denies that the people used for grazing the mountains which he had taken into his own possession up to 1853 or 1854; 6798-6811——If their cattle strayed upon these mountains they were impounded, 6801. 6806-6811——Further evidence showing that witness's rents are below the Government valuation, 6812-6819.

Witness pays the poor-rates for his tenantry, 6820-6823——Steps witness has taken to preserve the portion of the mountain reserved to himself from being trespassed upon by the people, 6826-6836——Witness gave premiums for clean houses; evidence relative to the competition for these premiums, 6837-6842——Difficulty at first in collecting the increased rents, 6850-6852——Evidence relative to the former flourishing stocking trade of Bunbeg, which was introduced by witness, 6853-6868——Very few people have emigrated from the district, and some of these have returned, 6869-6879.

Further evidence as to the reasons why witness discharged Hugh M'Bride, 6880-6895——Refusal of the Rev. Mr. Doherty to pay witness the rent of a house which he occupied, 6896-6909——There is great eagerness generally on the part of the tenants to obtain possession of these new cuts which have been made so much of before this Committee, 6910-6928. 6931-6934——Witness does not keep his tenants under a perpetual notice to quit, 6929, 6930.

Further evidence relative to the petition of Patrick M'Kye, in 1837, showing the miserable state of the district in that year, 6935-6937——Witness has never had any leases on his estate, with the exception of one old lease, 6938-6940.

Hill, Lord G. Lord George Hill's coming there has done harm to the district rather than good, *M'Bride* 813——The destitution on Lord George Hill's estate is, generally speaking, very great, *Doherty* 1318——Witness does not agree with the statement that has been made, that Lord George Hill's purchase of the estate has done a positive harm to the tenantry, *ib.* 2016——But he maintains that if the taking away of the mountains and the rack-renting are persisted in, the people will not be able to live, *ib.*——Great assistance afforded to the people by Lord George Hill during the famine years; great exertions used by him on their behalf, *Brady* 6270-6272——Witness is certain that the district was better off before Lord George Hill came to it than it now is, *T. M'Bride* 2700-2713. 2721-2726.

See also *Grazing. Holdings. Impounding Cattle. Landowners. Rundale System. Tenant Right.*

Holdings. The bog land and grazing were taken away from the people to make into holdings for new tenants, *M'Bride* 270-273——Their holdings in the townland of Carrick are not sufficient, and the sea sand is encroaching on the small slips of land they have, *H. M'Bride* 422-430——Opinion that the farms on Lord George Hill's estate are so miserably small, that if the tenants are confined to them they will not be able to live; they are mere slips of land, very narrow and long, *Doherty* 1370-1374. 1483——Opinion that these small holdings and new cuts are very detrimental to the country, *M'Fadden* 3670-3673——Opinion that it is impossible there can be anything else than destitution under the system of small allotments that is practised in the district; suggestion for remedying this evil, *W. S. Crawford* 4653-4660. 4685-4688——The whole of witness's tenants hold land, *Lord G. Hill* 6773, 6774——The principle use witness made of the waste land was to make additions to those farms that he thought two small, *Nixon* 7300-7304——Generally speaking, the farms are too small to support the family, but they have most of them other resources besides the produce of the land, *Hamilton* 8623-8625.——*See* also *Leases. New Cuts.*

Holland, Dennis. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Lives in Belfast; is proprietor and editor of the "Ulsterman" newspaper, 2366, 2367——Visited the districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely in the end of last November and the beginning of December; was there

Report, 1857-8—*continued.*

Holland, Dennis. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

about ten days, 2368-2370——Had heard and read a great deal regarding the destitution of the districts, and wished to ascertain the facts for himself, 2371-2373. 2450——Witness first went to Ballyboes, the property of the Rev. Mr. Nixon; went into a few houses here and there, 2374-2376——The houses were the most wretched cabins witness ever saw, even in Ireland, 2377——The peasantry were very ragged and very wretched-looking, 2378——The beds were little bundles of rags tied up in a corner, 2378-2380.

The principal cause of the destitution that they gave to witness was the taking away of large tracts of mountain land from them, 2381-2388——They complained also of having been compelled to work gratuitously for the landlords on certain days called duty-days; explanation of this system, 2388-2394. 2492-2506——Some of them complained of having to pay the poor-rate, 2395-2400——Witness also inquired into the condition of the people on the property of Mr. Olphert at Keeldrum; it was very similar to that of Mr. Nixon's property, 2401-2414.

Increase of rent in Tory Island; particulars of a case of distraint on one of the tenants, 2414-2424——Increase of rents on the farms of Mr. Nixon, 2425-2432——Witness went to the townland of Middletown, the property of Lord George Hill, 2433, 2434——The houses were abominably wretched places; description of one of them, 2435-2445. 2447-2454——They were worse than witness ever saw any houses, either in Skull or Skibbereen, 2439-2442. 2447. 2454——The bed was a bundle of rags tied up in one corner, 2446-2453. 2447-2453——The women were thinly clad, but were sufficiently clad for the purposes of decency, 2455, 2456.

The rates were being collected at the time witness was there; great difficulty the people had in paying them, 2457, 2458——Strong objection of the people to go into the workhouse, 2459-2461. 2516-2519——But they have no objection to begging, 2462. 2507, 2508——Witness never saw a more destitute people in any part of Ireland, except at the time of the famine, 2463-2472.

Grounds for the people fearing that the landlords were going to put a tax on the manufacture of kelp, 2473-2478——Opinion that the people cannot continue to live under the circumstances in which they are placed, particularly as regards the rents of the new cuts, 2479-2491——From witness's inspection of the district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely during the ten days he was there, he would say that the people were in a very destitute state, 2520-2534.

Houses. Wretched state of the habitations of the people, *Williams* 1246, 1247. 1254-1256——Externally the habitations have improved within the last ten or twelve years, *Doherty* 2027——The exterior appearance of some of the houses was neat and clean, but the interior presented nothing but squalid wretchedness, *Underwood* 3893-3897——Instances of some of these houses, and names of the occupants in support of this assertion, *ib.* 3898-3930.——*See* also *Cabins. Filth. Mud. Hovels.*

Hunter, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Belongs to Gweedore; took land there first in July 1856; took Keeldrum mountain, 2,000 acres, from Mr. Olphert, and has since taken the farm of Alton, belonging to Mr. Woodhouse, 6009-6019——Recollects Mr. Wright giving it up on account of his having had so many sheep destroyed, 6016-6018——Since witness has been there he has lost 600 sheep, and believes they have been destroyed maliciously; the destruction first commenced in February 1857; 6025-6052.

Witness does not consider the people to be in a state of destitution; their appearance of poverty arises from the habits of the people, 6053-6061——Witness does not believe that they suffered last winter from the want of food, 6061-6064——Witness gives employment to many of the people in fencing and ditching; he contracts with them, and they earn from 2*s.* to 3*s.* a day; they refuse to work for witness when they have work to do of their own, 6065-6073.

There is no difference in the clothing of those who have cattle, and are well off, and the clothing of the poorest class, 6074, 6075——The relief was ostensibly for those who had paid the sheep-tax, and consequently many of those who were well off, and did not require relief at all, got it, 6077-6098. 6110, 6111——Attempts have been made to compel witness to quit the country by destroying his sheep, 6099, 6100——Both on Lord George Hill's and Mr. Olphert's property the people have much more mountain grazing than they have cattle for, 6100-6108.

The remains of many if the 600 sheep witness lost have been found under circumstances that would lead to the belief that they were maliciously destroyed, 6112-6175——Further evidence as to the rate of wages earned in the district, 6184-6208——Condition of the tenantry of the townland of Meenagoppa, 6209-6221.

I.

Illicit Distillation. Illicit distillation is gradually decreasing, *Doherty* 2139-2141.

Impounding

Report, 1857-8—*continued.*

Impounding Cattle. The tenants' cattle have been impounded for grazing on Lord George Hill's portion, *Robertson* 6958, 6959——The pounding of the trespassers, for which witness has been so much complained of, was merely to assert his right, *Nixon* 7270, 7271. 7337-7340.——*See* also *Trespassing.*

Improvements. See *Bunbeg Townland.*

Income Tax. It is not true that witness has charged income tax to his tenants, *Nixon* 7308, 7309. 7746-7750.

Innishirren Townland. Witness has known the townland of Innishirren and the people for more than twenty years, and never knew them to be so badly off as they now are, *H. M'Bride* 677-689——They are a laborious and industrious people, and used to knit stockings; but since the mountain grazing has been taken away from them they have lost their sheep, and consequently their wool, *ib.* 690-699.

Inspection. Numerous instances in which witness has been refused admittance into the houses since this inspection has been going on, *Robertson* 7135-7173. 7226.

K.

Keeldrum, Upper, Townland. Condition of the people on the property of Mr. Olphert, at Keeldrum, *Holland* 2401, 2402——The people on this townland are very poor; their clothing and bedding are in a most wretched condition; instances in support of this assertion; Mr. W. Olphert is the landlord, *M'Fadden* 3417. 3430-3465——Period of witness's visit to the townland of Upper Keeldrum, the property of Mr. Wybrants Olphert, *Underwood* 4062, 4063. 4126——Evidence relative to the people of Upper Keeldrum, showing that, although they are poor, they are not in such a state of destitution as to stock, bedding, and clothing as has been represented to this Committee, *Olphert* 5498-5576. 5687-5710.

Keeldrum, Lower, Townland. Number of families in the townland of Lower Keeldrum, of which Mr. Wybrants Olphert is the landlord; the people are very poor, *M'Fadden* 3486, 3487.

Kelp Trade. It is only on Mr. Nixon's estate that there is a practice of paying rent for the sea-weed used for making kelp, *Doherty* 1761-1767. 1776. 1891-1894. 2072——Higher wages are paid for making kelp than for any other description of labour, but there is great risk in it, *Doherty* 2026; *Boyle* 4477-4480——A considerable amount of income has been derived from the sale of kelp, *Doherty* 2071-2078——The people now are making kelp, but it is considered a failure, *M'Gee* 2355-2360——Grounds for the people fearing that the landlords were going to put a tax on the manufacture of kelp, *Holland* 2473-2478.

Witness made a little kelp last autumn, and got about 2*l.* for it, *T. M'Bride* 2782-2786——For a couple of summers witness worked at kelp-making, but did not work at it last summer, as he could not make anything of it, *Ferry* 3000-3005——More kelp is made in the townland of Magheraroarty than in any other district, *M'Fadden* 3546, 3547——The principal resource of the island of Tory is making kelp; reasons why the trade in this article has fallen off of late in the island, *M'Fadden* 3556-3571; *Boyle* 4461-4476. 4523-4527——Case of Mr. Woodhouse having served a distraining notice upon one man for half a year's rent for the whole island, *M'Fadden* 3560-3564. 3566-3571. 3574. 3576.

Large sums formerly made in the kelp trade, and also by drying and selling the sea-weed for manure, *Olphert* 4905-4909——Though the trade in kelp in the island has been annually improving, witness has never been able to get a farthing more rent, *Woodhouse* 5869-5885. 5949-5959——Explanation of the statement that has been made by one of the witnesses before this Committee, that the Glasgow merchants were prevented coming and buying the kelp in consequence of a proceeding of witness's, *ib.* 5871-5874. 5882-5884. 5957-5959——Besides the kelp, the people have land, and there is also fishing on the coast, *ib.* 5881. 5885-5890.

See also *Sea-weed.* *Wages.*

L.

Labour Market. See *Employment.* *Wages.*

Landowners. Number of landowners in the Gweedore district; their names; total area of their estates; extent thereof that has been taken from the tenants, *Doherty* 1278-1299; *M'Fadden* 3738-3743——Under the present system of exercising the rights of the landlord the people will not be able to continue in the country, *Doherty* 2176——When witness went down into the district some of the estates were on sale; particulars relative

Landowners—continued.

to the rental of Mrs. Russell's estate, *Underwood* 3859-3867——Witness believes that there is an allegation that the cause of this distress is the conduct of the proprietors, but has never put himself in communication with any one of them on the subject, *W. S. Crawford* 4646, 4647——There has always been a good feeling between witness and his tenants, and if it had not been for Mr. Doherty and Mr. M'Fadden, there would have been no trouble of any kind, or any talking about the townlands, *Olphert* 4924-4931——The landlords of the district have certainly been most kind to their tenants, and more especially Lord George Hill, *Brady* 6314.

Purchased property in the district of Gweedore in 1838; had previously visited the district in 1834, *Lord G. Hill* 6632-6636——Extent of property witness purchased; improvements he made thereon, *ib.* 6641 *et seq.*——For the last twenty years witness has expended his time and his means in improving the condition of the people of this district, *ib.* 6677-6679——Witness has always attended to the wants of the people when they have applied to him for assistance, to the utmost of his power, *ib.* 6690-6693——Instance of a poor man having been refused relief because he had spoken well of witness as a landlord, *Nixon* 7377-7379——A very general feeling for the worse seems to have been stirred up between landlord and tenant since this interference of the priests with the affairs of the landlords, *Young* 8441-8443. 8464.

See also *New Cuts.* *Olphert, Mr.*

Leases. Before the mountain pasturage was taken away from them, and before the rent was increased, there is no doubt a lease would have been a great encouragement to industry, *Doherty* 1552—— Leases under their present circumstances would be valueless to them, *ib.* 1552——They have no kind of security for holding the land as long as they wish, on the contrary, they are served with a notice to quit each year; way in which this paralyses their industry, *ib.* 1553-1566——Witness has never had any leases on his estate, with the exception of one old lease, *Lord G. Hill* 6938-6940——Witness has urged the people to take leases, and they have refused to take them, *Nixon* 7296-7299.

Leitrim, Lord. See *Dunmore Townland.*

Lime. Tax levied for lime-burning in the townland of Stroughanreagh, *M'Fadden* 3307-3310——The people are charged for burning lime, if even they burn it in their own kilns, *Boyle* 4521, 4522——Witness charged 1 *d.* a barrel for all lime that is sold by his tenants, *Nixon* 7287-7289——How far any charge is made for burning lime on witness's property, *ib.* 7390.

Loughkiel Townland. There are only a few tenants in the townland of Loughkiel; they are not so badly off as they are in other townlands, *Doherty* 1713, 1714——The reason witness assigns for this is, that though Mrs. Russell has threatened to increase rent, the tenants do not yet pay any increase, *ib.* 1714.

Lunniagh Townland. Evidence relative to the condition of the townland of Lunniagh, *Doherty* 1511——Witness considers the condition of the people of this townland very desperate, *ib.* 1539-1541.——*See* also *Bedding*, II. 4. *Grazing*, II. 5. *Stock.*

M.

M'Bride, Hugh. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Comes from Gweedore, in the county Donegal; was bailiff to Lord George Hill up to the spring assizes of 1857; was also, up to that time, cess collector in the parish of Tullaghobegly; had assisted his father in the collection of the cess in that parish for seventeen years previously to 1856; 1-6——Witness resigned his appointment in March 1857, when the police-tax was struck upon the parish, 7, 8——His conscience would not let him collect it, 9——In consequence of this refusal witness was dismissed by Lord George Hill, 10.

Witness, from his position as cess collector and process server, is intimately acquainted with the district and people, 11-14. 17——Number of families in the parish, 15, 16——They are in a state of greater poverty than they were three years ago; they are now in great poverty, 18-21——Even last harvest they were obliged to sell their potatoes to pay the taxes, and had to borrow the money to pay it in many instances, 22-28——The principal cause of their distress is the taking away of the right of grazing on the mountains, and the raising of the rents, and the heavy taxation, 29——They always had this right of grazing till three or four years ago, when the Scotchmen and the Englishmen went over there and took the mountains, 30-34——And then the rent was raised upon the land that was left to them; the former rent for a cow's grass was 11 *s.* 4 *d.*, it is now 1 *l.*; 35. 104-123.

Their stock of cattle is greatly reduced to what it was two or three years since, 36, 37——They are not so well fed as they were; they have but two scanty meals daily, barely sufficient for one meal, and these are principally composed of dolamaun, a kind of seaweed, 38-46. 196-255——Wretched state of the bedding of these people, and scanty nature

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M'Bride, Hugh. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—*continued.*

nature thereof, and of their bed covering, 47-56——Witness has known nine people to lie in the same bed; attempt made to divide the sexes, 57-64——Evidence showing that these people were better clad some two or three years since than they were last year; some of the women were hardly sufficiently clothed for the purposes of decency, 65-102.

Explanation as to what is meant by a cow's grass; the house is built upon it, and all improvements made by the tenant himself, 123-127——The people had the right of grazing on the mountains without paying anything for it, 128-132——The people had a larger number of cattle and sheep some two or three years ago than they have now; they have been obliged to sell them to support themselves and to pay the taxes and rents, 133-161. 168, 169.

On Magheraclogher, in the spring of 1857, the county cess was 3 *l.* 3 *s.* 1 *d.*, and in the summer of the same year it was 78 *l.* 1 *s.* 6 *d.*; 162-167——The people's means of living were diminished and their burdens were increased, 170, 171——Instances of parties in this townland that were formerly well to do, and who are now in the same destitute condition as the rest, 172-195.

Number of families in the townland of Middletown; number of cows' grass they had; the former rent was 11 *s.* 4 *d.*, it is now 1 *l.*; 256-262——The mountain grazing has been taken away from them, 263——The county cess of the townland of Middletown in the spring of 1857 was 2 *l.* 10 *s.* 3 *d.*, in the summer of the same year it was 62 *l.* 3 *s.* 3 *d.*; 264-266——The people were obliged to sell their stock and crop to meet this increased rate of taxation, 267-269.

The bog land and grazing were taken away to make into holdings for new tenants, 270-273——The land is in the first instance given to the tenant without rent; he has to build the house, drain the land, and cultivate it, and after that a rent is put on, 274-280——Size of these farms; they are not sufficient to support the people, 281-289——The cutting off of the mountain grazing has done the people great injury, 290-304——The principal food of these people is dolamaun and crabs and a soft kind of scantling potatoes, 305-312——More sea-weed has been consumed by these people last year than for many years previously; 313-345——These people have suffered very much lately from having the mountain land taken from them, and from the doubling of the rent, and from the taxes, 346-353——State of the beds and bed-clothing in the townland of Middletown, 354-362——Their clothing is not now fit for the purposes of decency, 363-369.

Increase of rent for cow's grass in the four divisions of the townland of Carrick; it has increased from 6 *s.* 8 *d.* to 16 *s.*; 370-387——The people had the right of the mountain grazing and the use of the top lands for cutting turf; this has been taken away from them, and made into new cuts for fresh tenants, 388-406——Amount of the county cess in the townland of Carrick in the spring of 1857; increase in the summer of the same year, 407-409——The people of this townland are much reduced in their circumstances within the last three years, 410 *et seq.*——The same description witness has given of other places as to their food, bedding, and clothing, would apply to the people of this townland, 420-475——Their holdings are not sufficient, and the sea sand is encroaching on the small slips of land they have, 422-430.

Witness knows the townland of Meenaduff; number of families in this townland; number of cows' grass they have; old rent of the cow's grass; present rent, 476-486——The right of commonage has been taken away from them, and the number of head of cattle and horses has been much reduced, 487-498. 502, 503——The people generally are in a very poor condition as to food, clothing, and bedding, 499-501. 504——Witness knows the townland of Magheragallen; it is on Lord George Hill's estate, 506, 507——The people of this townland are miserably poor; they have lost the mountain grazing, 508-512——Number of families in the district; number of cows' grass formerly; amount of the old rent; amount to which raised, 513-521——The principal food of these people is sea-weed, 522-530.

Witness knows the townland of Dore on Lord George Hill's estate, 531-533——The people formerly had commonage for their cattle but have not got it now, 534, 535——Number of cows' grass in the district formerly, 536——Amount of the former rent; amount of the present rent, 537-540——Amount of the county cess in the spring of 1857; amount thereof in the summer of the same year, 541, 542——Great reduction in the number of their stock within the last three years, 543-563——The same description witness has given of the other townlands applies to the food, bedding, and clothing of these people, 564.

Witness knows the townland of Stranacorcragh, on Lord George Hill's land, 565, 566——Number of cows' grass in the townland; amount to which the rent has been raised; increase in the county cess, 567-573——Wretched state of this people as regards their food and clothing, 574-589——Miserable state of the people in the townland of Meenanillar, on Lord George Hill's estate, 590-604——Wretched state also of the people of the townland of Lunniagh; increase in the amount of the rents, and also of the

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M'Bride, Hugh. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

county cess; the people are in the same state as those of the other townlands witness has described, 605-637——Similar evidence with respect to the townland of Sheskirbeg, 638-652——Also with respect to the townland of Arduns, 653-662——Circumstances of the people of the townland of Stramackilmartin, showing their present miserable state, 663-676.

Witness has known the townland of Innishirren and the people for more than twenty years, and never knew them so badly off as they are now, 677-689——They are a laborious and industrious people, and used to knit stockings, but since the mountain grazing has been taken away from them they have lost their sheep, and consequently their wool, 690-699. 761. 796-800——Evidence as to Lord George Hill having established a store for the sale of general goods at a place called Bunbeg, 700-702——Evidence as to his also having established a bakery, and as to one of his tenants having been ejected for having attempted a competition with this bakery, 703-727. 925-939.

The rate of daily wages paid to a labouring man on Lord George Hill's property is 10 *d.* in the summer and 8 *d.* in the winter; in the turf harvest, which lasts about a fortnight, they earn from 1 *s.* 6 *d.* to 2 *s.*; 728-760——The people would die of hunger only for the means that are got up for relieving them, 762-768——Failure of the potato crop last year, and after they were harvested they rotted in the pits, 769. 922-924——The rents were collected a month earlier than usual last year, 770-775——The misery of the people of these districts is principally owing to the taking away of the mountain pasturage, the increase of the rents, and the imposition of the sheep and police taxes, 776-780.

Witness has never known persons eat sea-weed who were not compelled to eat it from necessity, 781-787. 903-921. 973-975——Has never known it sold in the streets of Waterford or other towns in Ireland as a luxury, 788. 906-908. 975——The rent of a cow's grass was never 1 *l.* before Lord George Hill come to Gweedore, 789-792——Witness has never heard of a petition having been presented to the Lord Lieutenant twenty years ago, by one Patrick M'Kye, complaining of the wretched condition of the people of Gweedore, 793-795. 811, 812——Witness is quite certain that the people are much worse off in every respect now than they were twenty years ago, and also than they were three years ago, 801-810.

Lord George Hill's coming there has done harm to the district rather than good, 813——Witness does not know the reason why the rents were raised at the same time that the grazing was taken away; the rents were higher than the land could bear, 814-820——Witness repeats that the rents were too high; difficulty which he had in collecting them for Lord George Hill, 821-831——Considerable decrease in the quantity of stock owned by these people between 1854 and the summer of 1857; 831. 841-845.

Considerable change for the worse that has taken place in the food of these people within the same period, 832-840——Witness does not know whether Lord George Hill held any of the mountain land in occupation for the purpose of grazing or not, 846-877——A part of the rise of the rents might have been made up by the fact of the new cuts coming under rent for the first time, 878-902——Witness is not aware that 600*l.* worth of stockings was sold last year from the district of Gweedore, 940, 941——The people used formerly to pay their rents tolerably well; there were very few cases of distraint, 942-949.

Parties have sold their bedding and bed clothes to pay the taxes, 950-967——Witness has been dismissed by Lord George Hill, but never had any dispute or quarrel with him, 969-971——The state of the district was good in the famine years of 1848 and 1849, as compared with what it is now, 972. 976-981. 1006-1019——With respect to some of the townlands of which he has been giving evidence, there is no one in the poorhouse; way in which this may be accounted for, 982-1005. 1053-1057.

There was not much more fever or illness in the district last summer than usual, nor during this spring has it been more unhealthy, 1020-1027——Witness was dismissed by Lord George Hill because he would not collect the taxes for him, 1028-1052. 1058-1068——The tenants of Lord George Hill have no mountain grazing whatever now, 1069-1072——Evidence as to witness's employment in distributing the relief which has been sent to these people; amount thereof he has received himself, 1075-1094.

M'Bride, Mr. Witness discharged Thomas Hugh M'Bride because he considered him to be an unfaithful servant, *Lord G. Hill*, 6754. 6880-6895——Witness does not recollect M'Bride ever having told him that his tenants were gradually falling into poverty, *ib.* 6755, 6756.

M'Bride, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Lives in Gweedore, in the townland of Magheralosk; a farmer, holding four cows' grass; since 1854 has paid 5 *l.* rent; before that paid 2 *l.* 12 *s.* 6 *d.*; 2535-2542. 2809-2811——Had formerly the privilege of grazing his cattle on the mountains; this privilege has been taken away since 1854; 2543-2549——Number of families in the townland; number who have cattle, 2550-2556——

With

M'Bride, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

With one exception, the whole of these families use sea-weed with their food, 2557-2560——They are badly off for clothes and bedding, 2561-2563——They are also badly off for fuel, 2564, 2565.

Number of families in the townland of Meenaduff; number who have cows, 2566-2571——Amount to which their rent was raised in 1854; 2572-2574——The people in the townland of Cronaguigy are very poor, they have not a bed nor a chair nor table; they live on sea-weed when they can get it, but have to go five miles for it, 2578-2587——Number of families in Lower and Middle Dore; they are mostly obliged to use sea-weed; it is as poor a place as any in all the country, 2588-2590.

Witness knows the townland of Carrickataskin; miserable state of the people as to food, bedding, and clothing, 2591-2596——The people of Gweedore are worse off this year than they were the year before, 2597, 2598——The rate of wages is from 6 *d.* to 8 *d.* a day; there is no employment for labour in the district, 2600, 2601——Failure of the potatoe crop in the neighbourhood, 2602-2605——There have been no potatoes exported from the district, 2606, 2607——There have been no oats exported except to Bunbeg, Lord George Hill's store there; there is now no other market for their oats, 2608-2627.

Though witness may say that he is in a state of destitution, he is not so badly off as some of the rest in the country, 2628-2666——He just manages to live miserably by his farm of four cows' grass, 2667, 2668. 2686-2699——There is fishing in the district, and some few of the people go out fishing, but it is merely line-fishing, and they earn very little at it, 2669-2685.

Witness is certain that the district was better off before Lord George Hill came to it than it is now, 2700-2713. 2721-2726——Witness would say the same of Mr. Olphert, 2714——And also of Mr. Woodhouse, 2715——Formerly the people, if they had not cattle of their own, had the privilege of taking in grazing cattle, 2716-2720——Should a failure of the potatoes happen this year, witness would say that the people would be worse off than they were in 1847 or 1848; 2727-2731——Instance in which witness has known Lord George Hill turn out a tenant, 2735-2740.

Description of the house witness lives in, and extent of his furniture, 2741-2765——Witness has not tasted anything but potatoes and a little Indian meal since November last, 2765-2774. 2787-2793——When witness's cows are in milk he sells the butter at Letterkenny; it fetches sometimes 4 *d.* and sometimes 8 ½ *d.* a lb., 2775-2779——Witness keeps no pigs; if he did he would have nothing to give them to eat, 2780, 2781——Witness made a little kelp last autumn, and got about 2 *l.* for it, 2782-2786——Any person who asserts that Lord George Hill has always paid tenant right does not tell the truth, 2794-2800——Evidence as to witness having been compelled to sell three of his cows last year at half their value in order to pay his taxes, 2812-2822.

M'Bride, Thomas. Thomas M'Bride, who has been examined before the Committee, is by no means one of the most destitute people in the district, *M'Fadden* 3115-3117. 3637-3643.

M'Fadden, Rev. James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Curate of the parish of Raymunterdoney and Tullaghobegly East, in the district of Cloughaneely, 3111-3114——The witness Thomas M'Bride, who was examined before the Committee on their last day of meeting, is by no means one of the most destitute people in this district, 3115-3117. 3637-3643——Witness is intimately acquainted with the condition of the people of Ray and Ballyboe; Mr. Copeland was the former proprietor of these townlands, 3118-3124——Their condition is one of the most deplorable that can be imagined, 3125——Before 1838 these people might have been considered comparatively comfortable; at that time Mr. Copeland was the proprietor, the Rev. Mr. Nixton is now the proprietor, 3126-3139——They had formerly mountain commonage and reclaimed bog land, in which they raised large crops of oats, 3140-3142. 3169-3172.

When Mr. Nixon became proprietor of these townlands he deprived the people of mountain commonage and also of many acres of reclaimed land, 3143-3150——The tenants received no equivalent whatever for this, 3151-3167——The stock in the hands of the people has greatly diminished, 3168. 3196-3201. 3207-3210——The people pay taxes, and also poor-rate, although they are valued under 4 *l.*; 3173-3176——The people are very poorly clad, and their bed and bedding is of the worst description, 3177-3179. 3202-3204——Circumstances to which the people ascribe their present condition, 3180-3183——The rents have not as yet been increased, but the tenants have received notice to quit, unless they in future pay an advanced rent of 10 *s.* per cow's grass, 3184-3188. 3224-3226—— Evidence relative to the fines imposed upon the people for their cattle trespassing, 3189-3195——They use sea-weed as food when they can get it, but they have a difficulty in getting it, 3205, 3206. 3211.

The stock of the people has very much diminished, 3212-3215——Their furniture, bedding, and bed clothes are very bad, 3216-3221——Use of sea-weed as an article of food, 3222, 3223——Evidence relative to duty-days being charged to the people on Mr. Nixon's property, 3227-3234——General condition of the townland of Tullaghobegly Irish, of which the Rev. Mr. Nixon is the proprietor, 3235 *et seq.*——The

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M'Fadden, Rev. James. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

people have lost the mountain grazing, 3237-3240——Their stock of cattle has greatly diminished, 3241-3252——Witness's description of the clothing, bedding, and bed clothes of the other townlands applies equally to this townland, 3253-3257.

Evidence showing that persons rated under 4 *l.* have been rated to, and paid poor's-rate, 3258-3283.

Evidence relative to the condition of the townland of Stroughanreagh, the property of Mr. Nixon, 3284 *et seq*——The condition of the beds and bedding of these people is very bad, 3303——The people are charged poor-rate, 3304——General rule with reference to the period of occupation after which the tenants of the new cuts come under rent, 3305, 3306. 3311-3316——Tax levied for lime-burning in this townland, 3307-3310.

Condition of the townland of Dunmore, of which the Earl of Leitrim is landlord, 3317 *et seq.*——The people have been deprived of the mountain and are charged for grazing, 3320, 3321——The tenants pay poor-rates, although rented under 4*l.*; 3322-3329——Practice of keeping the tenants under notice to quit, 3330-3333——Great reduction in the stock of the people of this townland, 3334-3348——Wretched condition of the bedding of the people, 3349-3359.

Evidence relative to the townland of Cashel Hill, of which Mr. Wybrants Olphert is the landlord, 3360 *et seq*——Extent to which the rents have been raised, 3362-3365——Reduction in the stock of the people since 1856; 3366——State of the clothing and bedding of these people, 3367-3375.

Evidence relative to the townland of Lower Baltony, of which Mr. Wybrants Olphert is the proprietor, 3376, 3377——Extent to which the rent has been raised there, 3376-3385. 3393-3397——The mountain has not yet been taken away from them, but soon will be, 3386, 3387——Their stock has been reduced, 3388-3392——The people are in a wretched state of destitution, 3401-3416.

Evidence with respect to the townland of Upper Keeldrum; Mr. Wybrants Olphert is the landlord, 3417——They have lost a large portion of the mountain, 3419. 3421-3425——Their rents have been raised, 3420——Nothing is done by the landlord on the new cuts to make them fit for occupation, 3425-3429. 3467-3472——The people on this townland are very poor; their clothing and bedding are in a most wretched condition, 3430-3465——Diminution of stock in the townland of Keeldrum within the last two or three years, 3466——General use of sea-weed as an article of food, 3473-3477——The people of Ballinacraig are very poor and are in the same condition as the people of Upper Keeldrum, 3478-3485.

Number of families in the townland of Lower Keeldrum, of which Mr. Wybrants Olphert is the landlord; the people are very poor, 3486, 3487——The mountain has been taken away and the rents have been raised, 3489, 3490——Wretched condition of the people as to food, clothing, and bedding, 3491-3508——The townland of Ardsbeg is also Mr. Wybrants Olphert's, 3509——Instances showing that the people who live in the mountain portion of this townland are very poor, 3510-3522——Large sum which the people have had to pay for entrance upon the new cuts in this townland, 3513. 3517. 3520-3522.

Number of families in the townland of Derryconner; total area of the townland; portion of commonage which has been taken away from the people; portion which has been divided into new cuts, 3523-3528. 3530-3533——The people are very poor and very badly off for bedding, 3529. 3534-3541——Condition of the people in the townland of Magheraroarty; the rents have been raised and the mountain grazing taken away, 3542-3545.

More kelp is made in this townland than in any other district, 3546, 3547——Great poverty of the people in the townland of Meenlara, 3548-3552——High price which has been charged for new cuts of miserable mountain bog land, 3552.

Witness is acquainted with the island of Tory, Mr. Woodhouse's property; number of families in the island; extent to which the rent has been raised, 3553-3555——The principal resource of the island is making kelp; reasons why the trade in this article has fallen off of late, 3556-3571.

Case of Mr. Woodhouse having served a distraining notice upon one man for a half-year's rent for the whole island, 3560-3564. 3566-3571. 3574-3576——Evidence relative to the relief given by the parish priest in 1855, when there was great distress in the district of Cloughaneely; denial of the existence of this distress by Mr. Olphert, 3572, 3573. 3577-3585. 3592-3600——The rents on Mr. Olphert's property were raised in 1856 and 1857; 3586-3590——If any person were to state that the people were better off this year than any other year, it would not be the truth, 3591, 3592.

Large numbers of the people have been compelled to live upon the worst description of sea-weed, 3601-3606——On every occasion witness has insisted upon the great necessity of observing the law, 3607, 3608——Witness does not think that the people of

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M'Fadden, Rev. James. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

of his parish had anything to do with the destruction of the Scotch sheep, 3609-3614——Way in which witness accounts for the reluctance of the people to go into the workhouse, 3615-3620——Witness does not mean to maintain that the rents have been doubled on all the townlands, but in some of them they have been more than doubled, 3621-3636.

Witness never heard that Mr. Copeland, before he sold his property to Mr. Nixon, entered into an agreement with his tenants that they were to pay the poor-rates, 3644-3648——Evidence relative to the sand-hills that were taken away by Mr. Nixon, 3649-3654——Opinion that no one but ejected tenants would come into these townlands and take the new cuts, 3662-3667——Opinion that there was no malice in the loss of the Scotch sheep, 3669.

These small holdings and new cuts are very detrimental to the country, 3670-3673——Witness does not now see any remedy under Heaven but emigration, 3674-3677——In every respect the district of Cloughaneely is decidedly in a worse condition than it was when witness first visited it in 1838; 3683-3701——The district may generally be considered a healthy district, but there has been a good deal of sickness lately, 3702-3706——Witness believes that the whole of the people who received the relief were in a state of real destitution, 3713-3727——There has been a great decrease of late in witness's own dues as pastor of these people, 3728-3737.

[Second Examination.]—Witness never laid an interdict upon boats going to Tory Island, 8709.

M'Fadden, Rev. Mr. Condemnation by the bishop of the diocese of Mr. M'Fadden's proceedings, *Cruice* 8178-8180——Evidence relative to an inflammatory address issued by the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden in 1857; result of witness's complaint to the Government on this subject, *ib.* 8337-8347——Witness on his visit to the district met with the Rev. Mr. M'Fadden who told him that the distress was general, but he could not swear to the facts stated in the appeal which he had signed, *Hamilton* 8559-8566. 8661, 8662. 8681-8690. 8700, 8701.

M'Gee, Rev. Daniel. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Succeeded the Rev. Mr. Doherty as parish priest of Tullaghobegley West, in the Gweedore district, 2281-2284——Knew very little of the district before he was appointed as parish priest there, 2285-2287——Miserable condition of the people of the parish as to clothing when witness arrived there, 2288, 2289. 2299——General use of sea-weed as an article of food; the few potatoes they had were very bad; there had been a partial failure of the crop, and they also rotted in the pits, 2290-2294——Wretched condition of the people as to bedding and bed clothes, 2295, 2296——Between 500 and 600 out of the 800 families in witness's parish were in a state of destitution, 2297——The rents on Lord George Hill's estate were collected earlier in 1857 than they had been in previous years, 2300——Some of the people have been obliged to sell their cattle and their oats and potatoes to meet the rent and taxes, 2301-2307.

Number of families in the townland of Carrick, number who use sea-weed habitually, extent to which the rent has been raised, 2308-2310——Number of families in the townland of Lunniagh; number who live on sea-weed, 2312-2314——The same remarks will apply to several other townlands in the district of Gweedore, 2315-2320——The state of the bed and bedding of these townlands is exceedingly bad, and they have scarcely any clothing, 2329-2331.

Witness was treasurer to the relief fund, 2332——The appeal to public charity was rendered absolutely necessary by the state of the people, 2333——Amount that was received altogether and appropriation thereof, 2334-2352. 2361-2364——The people are now making kelp but it is considered a failure, 2355-2360——The people attribute their present wretched condition to the taking away of the mountains, to the doubling of the rents, and also to the increased taxation, 2365.

M'Gee, Rev. Mr. Witness is well acquainted with the Rev. Mr. M'Gee the Roman Catholic clergyman; they have always co-operated where there has been any distress; they worked together during the famine year, *Stewart* 7819, 7820——He would not sign the appeal as he considered that it was not only unnecessary but worse than useless, *ib.* 7821-7828. 7890-7892. 7910-7913——The Rev. Mr. M'Gee the clergyman of Dunfanhogy condemned these proceedings altogether, *Cruice* 8170-8174.

M'Groarty, Rev. John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Roman Catholic curate of Clondahorkey; visited the district of Cloughaneely on the 1st November 1857; spent three days there, and visited Gweedore in February 1858, 3772-3778——Had been acquainted with other districts of a nearly similar nature in the county of Donegal, 3779——Considers these people far superior in condition to the people of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, 3780——Considered the labouring class in other districts better off than the tenant farmers in these districts, 3780-3782.

Witness found the people of Gweedore and Cloughaneely in a state of great destitu-

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M'Groarty, Rev. John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

tion as regards bedding, bed clothes and body clothes, and also as regards food; so far as witness could ascertain, in a great many instances they had no property or cattle of any sort, 3783-3800——Extensive use of sea-weed as an article of food; they often use the worst sort of sea-weed, 3799. 3802-3805——The people ascribe their present miserable condition to the abstraction of the mountain pasture, to the increase of rent and to the taxation, 3801——In the townlands witness visited he made a most minute and careful inquiry, 3806-3809.

Illustration of the state of things that witness found in the townland of Magheraclogher in the case of Neal Dohertys, 3810-3835——Case of a man named Owen M'Causland showing the distress of the people of the townland of Dunmore, 3836-3840. 3851-3854——Opinion that the people of the districts of Cloughaneely and Gweedore could not have continued to subsist if they had not received relief, 3841, 3842——Nor can they now subsist unless the mountain pastures which were taken from them are returned, or they are enabled to emigrate, 3843-3849.

M'Kimm, ——. Wretched state of a man named M'Kimm living in the townland of Calharne of which the Rev. Mr. Nixon is the landlord, *Boyle* 4371-4378.

M'Kye, Patrick. See *Petitions.*

Magheraclogher Townland. Instances of parties in this townland that were formerly well to do, and are now in the same destitute condition as the rest, *H. M'Bride* 172-195—— Illustration of the state of things that witness found in the townland of Magheraclogher, in the case of Neal Doherty, *M'Groarty* 3810-3835.

Magherarvarty Townland. Condition of the people in the townland of Magherarvarty; the rents have been raised and the mountain grazing taken away, *M'Fadden* 3542-3545—— Evidence relative to witness's visit to the townland of Magherarvarty, showing that, with one exception, and that is in the case of Dennis M'Gee, the people are in a state of great destitution, *Underwood* 4011-4034.

Manufactures. See *Employment. Kelp Trade. Stocking Trade.*

Manure. See *Kelp Trade. Sea-weed.*

Manure Heaps. At the time of witness's visit to the district he found the insides of the houses very dirty and filthy; there were manure heaps in several of them, *Hamilton* 8604-8606.

Maunsell, Henry, M.D. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been in the habit of visiting the district of Gweedore of late years, 7927, 7928. 7930——Was there last year, 7931—— The people looked as well, as far as the appearance of their clothing went, as when he was there previously, 7932-7936——Witness knows that some descriptions of sea-weed are eaten, and always have been eaten in that country, 7937——Results of an analysis made on various descriptions of sea-weed by Dr. Apjohn and Dr. Davy, in July 1854, showing that there is nothing unwholesome in the moderate use of them, 7938-7940.

The district has much improved since witness first knew it, thirty years ago, 7941—— Witness, on his last visit, found that the people treated this alleged destitution as a sort of joke; but they were much grieved at the disturbance that has been created by the proceedings which have been going on, 7942, 7943. 7961-7966——Opportunities witness had of arriving at the condition of the people during his fishing excursions in the district, 7945-7960. 7987.

Witness would distinctly say that the people of this part of the county of Donegal are better off than those of the counties of Kerry and Galway, 7967-7979——The result of the experiments in the different species of sea-weed proves that what is called the dolomaun is the most nutritious of them all, 7980-7986.

Meenacluddy Townland. Evidence relative to the townland of Meenacluddy; acreage thereof; extent of mountain land; number of families living in the townland, *Woodhouse* 5813-5816.

Meenacuin Townland. Statement relative to the townland of Meenacuin; number of families subsisting on sea-weed; there is only one bed in the townland, and no chair nor table, except in two instances, *Doherty* 1589-1598.

Meenaduff Townland. Number of families in this townland; number of cows; grass they have; old rent of the cows' grass; present rent, *H. M'Bride* 476-486——The people generally are in a very poor condition as to food, clothing, and bedding, *ib.* 499-501. 504——This townland is on Lord George Hill's property, *ib.* 505——Number of families in the townland of Meenaduff; number who have cows, *T. M'Bride* 2566-2571.

Meenagoppa Townland. Condition of the tenantry of the townland of Meenagoppa, *Hunter* 6209-6221——Witness considers that the people of Meenagoppa are better off than the other districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, *Olphert* 5175-5177.

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Meenlara Townland. Great poverty of the people in the townland of Meenlara, *M'Fadden* 3548-3552.

Middletown Townland. Witness went to the townland of Middletown, the property of Lord George Hill, *Holland* 2433, 2434——The houses were abominably wretched places; description of one of them, *ib.* 2435-2445. 2447-2454——They were worse than any houses witness ever saw in Skull or Skibbereen, *ib.* 2439-2442. 2447-2454——Witness never saw a more destitute people in any part of Ireland, except at the time of the famine, *ib.* 2463-2472.

Money. Though their houses appear wretched and dirty, many of them have plenty of money inside, *Olphert* 4746, 4747.

Morality. The moral character of the people is very good, *Doherty* 1944.

Mountain Commonage. See *Grazing.*

Mud Hovels. There are very few mud hovels on witness's property, *Nixon* 7695, 7696.

N

New Cuts:

1. *Description of what are called the New Cuts and the Occupation thereof.*
2. *High Rents charged for these New Cuts.*
3. *Objections to the System.*
4. *Defence of the System.*

1. *Description of what are called the New Cuts and the Occupation thereof:*

The land is in the first instance given to the tenant without rent; he has to build the house, drain the land, cultivate it, and after that a rent is put on, *H. M'Bride* 274-280——Every house witness went into he was told that the man was the proprietor of the hous e and the rent-holder of what they called the cut upon which the house was built; size of, these cuts and rent paid, *Williams* 1208, 1209——In the first instance the people go on there as squatters; they have to build houses upon them without any assistance from the landlord, and after a time they come under rent, *Doherty* 1489-1510——The new cuts were generally let to natives of the district, *ib.* 1984-1989——Nothing is done by the landlord on the new cuts to make them fit for occupation, *M'Fadden* 3425-3429. 3467-3472——Object for making what are called the new cuts, *Sweeney* 8004, 8005.

2. *High Rents charged for these New Cuts:*

Opinion that the people cannot continue to live under the circumstances they are now placed, particularly as regards the rents of the new cuts, *Holland* 2479-2491——General rule with reference to the period of occupation after which the tenants of the new cuts come under rent, *M'Fadden* 3311-3316——Large sums which the people have had to pay for entrance upon the new cuts in the townland of Ardsbeg, *ib.* 3513. 3517. 3520-3522——High prices that have been charged for new cuts of miserable mountain bog land, *ib.* 3552——Destitute condition of the people of the townland of Faunaboy; high rent of the new cuts in this townland, and nature of the soil, *Underwood* 4130-4146——High rents paid for the new cuts in the townland of Ardsbeg, the property of Mr. Olphert, *ib.* 4180-4187.

3. *Objections to the System:*

Evidence showing that these new cuts are the means of generating a class of paupers, *Doherty* 1489-1510——Objection to the system of cuts, it impoverishes the country, *ib.* 2089-2095——Opinion that no one but ejected tenants would come into these townlands and take the new cuts, *M'Fadden* 3662-3667——Evidence showing that the people occupying the new cuts in the townland of Carrick were in a sad and saddening position, *Underwood* 3945-3951.

4. *Defence of the System:*

Where witness has made new cuts he has put a rent upon them after some few years, and this may appear like a raising of rent, but they have got these new cuts in addition to their original holdings, *Olphert* 4848-4863. 4985-5034——Assistance witness has given to the people who have built houses on the new cuts, *ib.* 5611-5618——About five or six new cuts have been made by witness for people to live upon, all the other cuts have been in addition to the other land held by his tenants, *ib.* 5662-5687——Evidence showing that witness has never received a single halfpenny for the new cuts that he made, *Woodhouse* 5855-5861.

When Mr. Russell purchased his property he considered the mountains belonged to him, and so did every one else; it is only since the appointment of this Committee that there has been any opposition to the making of new cuts upon them, *Brady* 6275-6283——There is great eagerness generally on the part of the tenants to obtain possession

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New Cuts—4. *Defence of the System*—continued.

of these new cuts which have been made so much of before this Committee, *Lord G. Hill* 6910-6928. 6931-6934——People who are about to take the new cuts are told that if they do so they will be struck off the relief list, *Robertson* 7046-7048——The anxiety for new cuts has decreased since the parties who take them are struck off the relief list, *ib.* 7111-7127.

See also *Cabins. Holdings. Strangers.*

Nixon, Rev. Alexander Brown. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is a magistrate; resides at Heathfield near Dunfanaghy; purchased property in the district in 1845; received the rents from 1844; 7231-7233——Explanation relative to an arrangement which had been entered into at the time Mr. Copeland held the property, which made them appear about one-third less than they really were, 7234-7237——Rent of a cow's grass about the year 1800; in addition to the rent the people had to pay tithe and duty days, and duty fowl, 7238-7242.

On the old holdings witness charges poor rate to the tenants under an agreement that was existing before he bought the property; he does not charge them on the new cuts, 7243-7251——Misunderstanding among the people that when they go into the poor house they are obliged to surrender their land, 7252-7258——When witness purchased the property the mountains were held in Rundale; course witness took under these circumstances, 7259, 7260.

Witness divided the land into new cuts and gave each man in due form possession of his new cut instead of what he formerly held, 7260-7262——Witness has always held some of the mountain in his own hands; he would not have bought the property except for the use of these mountains, 7263-7266——The taking of these mountains cannot have the least relation to the present distress as witness has had them so long, 7267.

Circumstances under which witness has let or endeavoured to let a portion of these mountains, 7268, 7269. 7272-7281——The pounding of the trespassers, for which witness has been complained of, was merely to assert his right, 7270, 7271. 7337-7340——Circumstances under which witness charges 1 *d.* a head for grazing on a portion of these mountains, 7282——Also circumstances under which he charges a nominal sum for the collection of sea-weed, 7283-7286.

Witness charges 1 *d.* a barrel for all lime that is sold by the tenants, 7287-7289——Witness formed several cotters on the mountain without land; he has given them all land, 7290-7295——Witness has urged the people to take leases and they have refused to take them, 7296-7299——The principal use witness made of this waste land was to make additions to those farms that witness thought too small, 7300-7304.

Witness has let two farms to strangers, to show the people that the land was his own, 7305-7307——It is not true that witness has charged income tax to his tenants, 7308, 7309——Witness charges a nominal sum for the use of turf, to preserve his turbary rights, 7310——Witness is abolishing the system of duty days, as he considers it a bad custom, 7311, 7312——Evidence showing that the rents are lower now than they were in 1798; 7313-7327.

Witness has not taken any reclaimed land into his own possession, 7328-7333——Where the sand has encroached upon the land withness has given the people a tract of mountain in compensation, 7334-7337——Witness did not formerly keep his tenants under notice to quit, but has been obliged to do so latterly, in order to keep control of the property, and prevent subdivision, 7341-7355.

Evidence showing that in many of the cases which have been stated as cases of great distress on witness's property, there is no distress at all, 7358-7373. 7381-7389. 7391. 7399-7423——Witness did not go round with police constable Thompson, of Cross Roads, to take the stock of his tenantry, nor did he tell him to do so, or know that he had done it, 7374-7376——Instance of a poor man having been refused relief because he had spoken well of witness as a landlord, 7377-7379.

Approval of what are called priests' arbitrators for settling disputes between landlords and tenants, 7380——How far any charge is made for burning lime on witness's property, 7390——The circumstances of the district have very much improved since 1845; wages have advanced, prices generally are higher; there are more carts in the district, and a great increase in the number of shops, 7392-7398. 7424-7431——Reasons why witness had nothing to do with the taking of the stock of the people, 7432, 7433——Witness never heard of any relief being given in Cloughnaheely before the appointment of this Committee, 7434-7436.

[Second Examination.] Opinion that the people in Donegal are far better off in substantial comforts, such as food, stock, and things of that sort, and money, than the people of many other counties in Ireland, 7437-7451——The excitement consequent upon these transactions is doing an incalculable injury to the people, 7452-7459——The houses of the cottiers are, generally speaking, a great deal better, neater, and cleaner looking than those of the old tenants, 7460-7463.

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Nixon, Rev. Alexander Brown. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

In former years when there was distress witness had numerous applications for work; he has had none this year, 7464, 7465——Amount to which tenant right has risen on the estate, 7466-7470——Under the present cultivation the land yields excellent crops; it would yield as good flax as any in Ireland, 7471-7476——The people hardly labour at all during the winter, 7477-7480——How far any portion of the mountain land which witness took into his own hands in 1845 may be said to have been reclaimed, 7481-7500. 7506-7510.

Evidence showing that the original possessor of the property charged duty days, it was part of the rent of the land; witness is endeavouring to abolish this system, 7511-7532——The former proprietor did not charge bog money; reason why witness has found it necessary to do so, 7533-7541——Witness charges fines to his tenants for their cattle trespassing in order to preserve his right, 7548-7562——Evidence showing that witness's tenantry are in a better condition now than they were formerly, 7563-7613.

Evidence relative to the state of the roads in the district, 7614-7627——Witness took no particular steps to get a police station on his property after the outrages which had been committed on the cattle, 7628-7641. 7645-7657——The Catholic clergy collected the money for this relief and whoever distributed it did so under their orders, 7642-7644——As regards the poor rate, witness only charges half rate to his tenants, 7660-7670. 7735-7745.

The poor rate was not collected in Mr. Copeland's time; it had only just been struck when witness purchased the property, 7671-7680. 7735-7745——Members of a family can go into the poor house while others remain outside, 7682-7688——Further evidence as to the advanced wages in the district, 7693, 7694——There are very few mud hovels on witness's property, 7695, 7696——Further evidence as to the people of the county of Donegal being better off than the people of several other counties in Ireland, 7697-7728——A higher rate of relief has been given in those townlands where outrages have been committed than in others, 7730.

Witness is proprietor of the townland of Glasshagh; the condition of the people is remarkably prosperous, 7731-7733——The statements which have been made that the people are in such a condition that without the use of sea-weed they would suffer extreme hunger, and perhaps death, are entirely and utterly untrue, 7734——Witness did not impose the income-tax on his tenants, 7746-7750——Circumstances under which he charged the poor-rate to his tenants, 7751-7760.

Notices to Quit. Notices to quit have been given, unless the tenants agree to give 10 *s.* additional rent per cow's grass, *M'Fadden*, 3224-3226——Practice of keeping the tenants under notice to quit, *ib.* 3330-3333——Witness does not keep his tenants under a perpetual notice to quit, *Lord G. Hill* 6929, 6930——Witness does not formerly keep his tenants under notice to quit, but has been obliged to do so latterly, in order to keep control of the property, and prevent sub-division, *Nixon* 7341-7355——Since the outrages the people have been subject to notices to quit; this has merely been done as a check upon them, *Stewart* 7799.

O.

Oatmeal. The price of oatmeal is lower than it has been for the last two or three years; the price of Indian meal is about the same, *Olphert* 4724, 4725.

Oats. See *Crops.*

O'Donnell. Explanation of the circumstances of the case of a man of the name of O'Donnell whose rent witness is stated by one of the newspapers to have raised three times, *Woodhouse* 5865-5868. 5916.

O'Dougherty, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Lives at Letterkenny, about thirty miles Gweedore, is manager for Mr. Joseph Gallagher, general merchant in Letterkenny, 2191-2193——Visits the districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely in the way of business about every two months, 2194-2199——Mr. Gallagher's business with the district has greatly decreased since 1853; 2200. 2253-2279——Witness attributes this to the people having lost the mountains, and their having latterly to pay the sheep cess and the police tax, and also to the rents being raised, 2201. 2280.

In 1857 witness made a personal investigation as to the condition of the people, 2202——Witness visited several houses in the townland of Middleton, and found the people in a most miserable condition as to food, bedding, and clothing; their food was sea-weed, 2202-2210——The same observation will apply to several houses witness visited in the townland of Brinlack, 2211-2232——Miserable state as to their clothing in which many of the people of the district attended the Roman Catholic chapels on Sundays, 2233-2235.

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O'Dougherty, John. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Witness has every reason to believe that there was a greater sale of stock and cattle in the district during the winter of 1857 than usual, 2236, 2237——Witness has recently found great difficulty in collecting the debts due to Mr. Gallagher in the district, 2238–2240. 2248-2252——Witness has seen many instances in which the dress of the females was insufficient for the purpose of covering their person, 2241–2247——Grounds on which witness forms the opinion that the condition of the people was worse in 1857 than it was in 1853; 2253–2279.

Olphert, Wybrants. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides at Ballyconnell, in the district of Cloughaneely; a magistrate and a resident proprietor; vice chairman of the Board of Guardians, and the deputy-lieutenant of the county, 4706–4709——Witness's property has been in possession of the family about 230 years, 4710——Witness has been managing it and living there constantly for twenty or twenty-five years, 4710, 4711——Is intimately acquainted with the habits and condition of the people particularly of the Cloughaneely district, 4712——Witness has himself purchased two townlands, those of Lower Baltoney and Cashel, 4713–4715.

Opinion that there is no destitution whatever in the country, 4716. 4897——They are better off than they have been for many years; they have more stock, and they have had a much better crop of potatoes and corn this year, 4717–4720——There is not perhaps much of a supply of potatoes now in the country generally as it is getting late in the season; present price of potatoes, 4721–4723——The price of Indian meal is about the same, 4724, 4725——When the people become needy they are in the habit of applying to witness for assistance; he has had no such applications this year; witness has never seen less begging, 4726–4732——Opinion that the appeal of December last is one of the greatest impositions that was ever practised upon the public, 4733, 4734——The price of oatmeal is lower than it has been for the last two or three years, 4733, 4734.

At the time of the famine in 1846 the distress was very great and the workhouses were full; steps witness and other proprietors took to relieve the people, 4735–4741——The same causes which are said now to prevent the people going into the poor-house were in operation then, 4742——The deaths in the poor-house were, comparatively speaking, not many, 4743, 5744——The people are as well clothed now as they usually are, 4745——Though their houses appear wretched and dirty, many of them have plenty of money inside, 4746, 4747.

Many of the people from choice keep their cattle in the house; reason of this 4748. 4887-4890——Public announcement made in the district as to the mode in which the relief was to be administered, 4749——It was stated that no one was to get relief but those who paid sheep tax or police tax, 4749——Witness holds seventeen or eighteen townlands in the district, and only one of these paid the sheep tax and one the police tax, 4750, 4751——In consequence of the public announcement of this relief the whole of the people in the district expected to get the amount of their taxes, 4752–4754.

After the appointment of this Committee there was a rush down of priests and strangers to all the houses, examining them, and there was quite a different state of things; there was none of this previously to that period, 4753——Instances of many cases where people received relief that were not entitled to it from destitution; as they immediately afterwards bought stock and sold their crops of potatoes and oats; some of them sold the meal they had received as relief, 4755–4791.

Evidence showing that, generally speaking, the amount these people received was equivalent to half the sheep or police tax they paid, in fact, they considered they were receiving their tax, 4767, 4768. 4787, 4788——Evidence in support of the assertion that after this Committee was appointed all the cases of destitution which have been mentioned were got up for the inspection of strangers, reporters of newspapers and priests, 4792-4820——Witness does not deny that there is poverty in the district, but he asserts that there is no destitution whatever, 4821.

Evidence showing that witness has taken no mountain from the people in any of the townlands belonging to him except in Upper Keeldrum, 4822–4832. 4899——In this townland he has taken 2,000 acres, as the people had not nearly sufficient stock to stock it, and he thought it better to turn it into a grazing farm than to let it lie waste, 4822–4832——These 2,000 acres have been subsequently let to a Scotchman, 4829——Opinion that a number of sheep have been destroyed off the mountain, 4833——Witness has never raised the rents in any of his townlands with the exception of the two townlands that he purchased in the Incumbered Estates Court, those of Lower Baltoney and Cashel, 4834–4847. 4898——Where witness has made new cuts he has put a rent upon them after some few years, and this may appear like a raising of rent, but they have got these new cuts in addition to their original holdings, 4848–4863. 4985–5034.

Till this appeal was published witness never heard of any one subsisting on sea weed; some of them may use a little of it as a relish to their potatoes, 4864–4875——The system of duty days is nearly exploded, 4876, 4877——Explanation relative to numerous

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Olphert, Wybrants. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

numerous cases in which relief has been given since the 1st May, showing that the recipients were not in need thereof, 4877–4883. 4890–4896——Opinion that this district is far better off than other districts along the coast, 4900–4902——There is treble the stock and a great deal more reclaimed land than there was twenty years ago, 4902–4904.

This relief system has checked all improvement, and has given the people begging habits, 4904, 4905——Large sums formerly made in the kelp trade, and also by drying and selling the sea weed for manure, 4905–4909——Witness has never made any charge to his tenants for the right of going to the shore for this sea weed, 4910–4912——Witness's tenants have as much turf as they can cut for fuel without any charge, 4913–4915——There is but little fishing on the coast, and what little they catch is for their own use and not for market, 4916–4922.

There has always been a good feeling between witness and his tenants, and if it had not been for Mr. Doherty and Mr. M'Fadden there would have been no trouble of any kind or any talking about the townlands, 4924–4931——Witness has but few cotters on his property and these he employs, 4932–4941——Witness is distinctly of opinion that the people are better off generally than they were in the famine year in point of health, clothing, and food, 4943——Evidence showing that the evidence which has been given of the wretched nature of the clothing of the people of the Gweedore district is not founded on fact, 4944–4955——Witness was present at the meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Dunfanaghy Union when the resolution was passed denying the destitution alleged to be existing in the public appeal of the Roman Catholic clergy, 4956–4983——Witness still adheres to his statement that there was no ground for the appeal, and that it was the greatest imposition ever practised on the country, 4980–4984——Witness denies that there was any distress this year, 5035. 5041, 5042.

Witness was applied to by Mr. M'Fadden, in 1855, in consequence of alleged distress in his district, but did not believe there was any distress, 5036, 5037——Witness has heard that the Roman Catholic clergymen purchased some Indian meal on their own credit, but they have got their money back again, 5038–5040——Witness is in the habit of visiting the houses of the people of Cloughaneely much oftener than the priests, and knows more about them, 5045–5047——After having found the fraud they were practising as regarded the hiding of their bed-clothes witness gave up his inquiries, 5048–5050. 5056–5060.

Description of the loss generally found in these houses, 5051–5060——Evidence showing that Mr. Sharman Crawford and his son, on their visit of inspection, were taken to the same houses as the other strangers, whether of the press or church, and these were what witness has described as the show houses, 5061–5079——Witness would represent the people of Middle Keeldrum as having clothes and as having beds, such as they usually have had, and is of opinion that a great many of them have money too, 5080–5174——Witness considers that the people of Meenagoppa are better off than the other districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, 5175–5177.

Further denial of the statements which have been made with respect to the general use of sea weed as the food of the people, 5178–5184——Witness is of opinion that the appearance of the people of the whole of the Rosses is worse than in the district of Cloughaneely, 5192–5204——Further evidence showing that the people of the district of Cloughnaeely have more stock this year than they ever had before, 5205–5334.

Evidence showing that many of the people who were recipients of the relief were not in need of it, 5345–5359——Evidence relative to a second meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Dunfanaghy Union in connexion with this subject, 5360–5391——Parties present at this meeting; resolutions come to by this meeting that there was anything but distress in the district of Cloughaneely, 5366——Evidence in detail relative to the rate of wages in the district, 5392–5429.

[Second Examination].—Further evidence in support of the statement witness made in his former evidence, that several persons in Middle Keeldrum, who were very well off, received relief; in fact, in the case of James M'Fadden, he might almost be called a rich man, 5430–5466——The whole of the people in Keeldrum who paid the taxes, got relief with two exceptions; as these parties were compelled to sell six heifers to pay the tax, they were considered too well off to receive relief, 5445. 5456–5461.

Evidence showing that further relief was not withheld from many of these people, even after their circumstances were made known to the Relief Committee, 5467–5495——The people of Lower Keeldrum got relief, although they did not pay the taxes, 5496, 5497——Evidence relative to the people of Upper Keeldrum, showing that, although they are poor, they are not in such a state of destitution as to stock, bedding, and clothing as has been represented to this Committee, 5498–5576. 5687–5710——Witness can state this with authority, as he visited their houses previously to their being prepared for the inspection of the gentlemen, priests, and reporters, 5566–5575.

Opinion that the stock in the townland of Upper Keeldrum has increased of late years, 5577–5595——Evidence showing that the bedding of the people of this townland is not worse than the general bedding of the country, 5596–5610. 5619–5636——Assistance

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Olphert, Wybrants. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

witness has given to the people who have built houses on the new cuts, 5611-5618——Extent of land held by Daniel Gallagher, the cess collector in Upper Keeldrum; mistake which has been made as to his holding in the valuation, 5637-5639. 5642, 5643-5645——Gallagher is no sort of partner with any of the Scotchmen; he has nothing whatever to do with them, 5640-5642.

The statement that 3,053 acres of mountain have been taken away from the people is false, 5644-5658——Witness has never threatened to fine any one for putting their cattle on the mountains, 5659-5661——Witness has made but about five or six new cuts for people to live upon, all the other cuts have been in addition to the other land held by his tenants, 5662-5687——Evidence relative to rate of wages paid to servant boys in the district, showing that the wages are very good, 5711-5718——There are not many disputes about land in witness's neighbourhood, and if the clergy would interfere less with the settlement of the land, there would not be so many disputes as there are, 5719-5734.

Way in which the relief was distributed by the clergy, 5735-5745——The relief distributed at the time of the famine was a difficult thing to manage, and some few may have got relief then who ought not have done so, 5745, 5746——Witness never heard of the people subsisting on sea-weed before this appeal was got up, 5447, 5748——Witness's opinion of the district is that there may be some cases of poverty, but no destitution; there is an appearance of poverty among a great many of the people from their dirty houses, 5749-5752——Witness considers that they are better off than in the district of which Mr. Doherty is the parish priest, 5751.

Witness did not vote when the presentment for the sheep was carried, 5753——Explanation relative to the statement made by Mr. M'Fadden in his evidence that witness had taken the mountain of Magherarvarty from his tenants, 5754——The consumption of spirits in the district has greatly increased within the last three or four years, 5755-5761. 5763-5766——The condition of the people generally in the district was a great deal better last year than it has been in former years, 5762. 5767-5769——Further evidence as to every person who paid the taxes having received relief, 5770-5772.

Olphert, Mr. There is not so much distress on Mr. Wybrants Olphert's property as on some of the other properties in the district, *Boyle* 4545-4552. 4573-4578. 4593-4610——Witness's property has been in possession of the family about 230 years, *Olphert* 4710——Witness has been managing it and living there constantly for twenty or twenty-five years, *ib.* 4710. 4711.

See also *Grazing.*

Outrages:

1. *Great Loss of Sheep in the District; Opinions that they were maliciously destroyed.*
2. *Opinions to the Contrary.*
3. *Ill Effects of these Outrages.*

1. *Great Loss of Sheep in the District; Opinions that they were maliciously destroyed:*

Opinion that a number of sheep have been destroyed off the mountain, *Olphert* 4833——Shortly after witness let the property at Alton to Mr. Wright, he saw 800 sheep on the mountain; black-faced sheep brought from Scotland, *Woodhouse* 5793, 5794——It was upon these sheep that the first outrage was made in the country, *ib.* 5795——Witness has lost 600 sheep, and believes they have been destroyed maliciously; the destruction first commenced in February 1857, *Hunter* 6025-6052——The remains of many of the 600 sheep witness lost have been found under circumstances that would lead to the belief that they were maliciously destroyed, *ib.* 6112-6175.

The first outrage of an agrarian nature as regards the sheep occurred in 1854, when the tails were cut off some sheep that were grazing upon the land of Mr. Nixon's; particulars concerning this outrage, *Cruice* 8046 *et seq.*——Circumstances connected with the outrage committed on the house of Lillicoe, Mr. Woodhouse's shepherd at Alton, *ib.* 8069-8071——Circumstances of a number of Mr. Huggett's sheep being killed on 3 February 1857; application made to Government to send an additional police force to the district, *ib.* 8072-8078——Enormous outrages on the sheep which were subsequently reported to witness; the result of a search showed that the sheep so reported were actually killed, *ib.* 8079-8086.

Opinion that if the clergymen had spoken to the people as he should have done, these things would have dropped, *Cruice* 8087——Witness's firm opinion is, that in the original outrage the Gweedore people killed the sheep; in the second instance of the destruction of the sheep, he believes it was the outside people, *ib.* 8284-8312.

The return spoken of by Mr. Cruice as to the number of outrages committed in the district was prepared by witness, and is correct, *Young* 8383-8385——When these outrages

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OUTRAGES—continued.

1. *Great loss of Sheep in the District, &c.*—continued.

outrages were reported, immediate steps were taken to discover the remains of the sheep; particulars of the results of these searches, *ib.* 8386-8395. 8521-8528——Circumstances of the outrage in the house of Lillicoe, Lord George Hill's shepherd; and also of the attack on Coward's house, who was shepherd to Mr. Huggup, *ib.* 8396-8402——Number of sheep which were reported as having been killed in this district, *ib.* 8403-8405.

2. *Opinions to the Contrary:*

Witness does not believe that there is any wide-spread conspiracy with a view to effect the destruction of the sheep belonging to the Scotch and English settlers in the district of Gweedore, *Doherty* 1895-1939. 2146-2163. 2167-2172, 2177-2190——Witness does not believe that the Scotchmen's sheep that were lost on the mountains were killed out of spite, although it has been so reported, *Ferry* 3019-3023. 3028-3051——Witness believes that a great part of them died on the mountains; they fell into holes, and died there, *ib.* 3020. 3028-3051——Witness does not think that the people of his parish had anything to do with the destruction of the Scotch sheep, *M'Fadden* 3609-3614——Opinion that there was no malice in the loss of the Scotch sheep, *ib.* 3669——Witness inquired respecting the destruction of sheep, and was told the sheep were stolen, *Underwood* 4252, 4253.

3. *Ill Effects of these Outrages:*

In December 1856 Mr. Wright's shepherd was attacked, *Woodhouse* 5801-5806——After the attack upon his shepherd, Mr. Wright surrendered the place; Mr. Hunter is now the tenant, *Woodhouse* 5807-5812——Recollects Mr. Wright giving it up, on account of his having had so many sheep destroyed, *Hunter* 6016-6018——Attempts have been made to compel witness to quit the country by destroying his sheep, *ib.* 6099, 6100.

Witness, in consequence of the outrages which had been committed, left the district, and was away twelve months, but returned there for a couple of days in May last, *Lord G. Hill* 6699, 6700——Witness did not then see any appearance of destitution, *ib.* 6701-6708——A higher rate of relief has been given in those townlands where outrages have been committed than in others, *Nixon* 7730——The bishop visited the district and remained at the Gweedore Hotel two or three days, and addressed the people, showing them the foolish way they were acting, *Cruice* 8088, 8089——Return showing the number and nature of the several outrages on the property of the Scotch and English settlers in the district of Gweedore since February 1857, *App. p.* 29.

See also *Doherty, Rev. Mr.*

P.

Petitions. Resolution of Committee that the statements which have been made in the appeal that "Last year brought a sad change on these warm-hearted people, &c., &c.," are entirely without foundation, *Rep. p.* iii——Witness has never heard of a petition having been presented to the Lord Lieutenant twenty years ago by one Patrick M'Kye, complaining of the wretched condition of the people of Gweedore, *H. M'Bride* 793-795. 811, 812—— Witness hands in a petition of a man named Patrick M'Kye, presented to the Lord Lieutenant in 1837, showing the miserable state of the district in that year, *Lord G. Hill* 6638-6640. 6935-6937.

The appeal of December last is one of the greatest impositions that was ever practised upon the public, *Olphert* 4733, 4734. 4980-4984——To say that there is destitution, as represented in the appeal that has been made, is perfect nonsense, *Thompson* 6551-6557——Refutation of the slanderous allegations against witness contained in the petition to the House of Commons in 1857, and which petition was rejected, *Lord G. Hill* 6775-6778——The impression of the people is, that when matters are settled in London things are to go back to what they were twenty or thirty years ago; that the people who hold new cuts must leave them, and that the Scotch sheep must all be sent back to Scotland, *Robertson* 7083-7087.

The main statements in the appeal of the 18th February are totally unfounded, *Stewart* 7846-7881——There are several signatures to the appeal of reverend gentlemen totally strangers to the district, *ib.* 7924-7926——Witness went down to the district of Gweedore by order of Government to make inquiries about the signatures, and could not find one person that had signed it, or authorised Mr. Doherty to sign their names, *Cruice* 8105-8108——The names of the three clergymen signed to the second petition were all in Mr. Doherty's handwriting, *ib.* 8109, 8110.

Witness firmly believes that the second petition was not a copy of the first, *Cruice* 8216-8231——The first petition was to Parliament, the second to the Lord Lieutenant, *ib.* 8377, 8378——Explanation as to the signatures to the second petition being all in witness's handwriting, *Doherty*, 8707.

See also *M'Fadden, Mr.* *M'Gee, Mr.*

Report, 1857-8—*continued.*

Pigs. Witness keeps no pigs; if he did he would have nothing to give them to eat, *T. M'Bride* 2780, 2781.

Police Stations. Witness took no particular steps to get a police station on his property after the outrages which had been committed on the cattle, *Nixon* 7628-7641. 7645-7657.

Police Tax. When the people were first called upon for the payment of the police-tax, they appeared to have no difficulty in paying it, *Stewart* 7829-7831——The first levy of the police-tax was in the summer of 1857; difficulty of finding collectors, *Cruice* 8093-8144——There is no doubt that the levy of this tax was disproportioned to the means of the people, *ib.* 8371-8375.

Witness collected the police-tax and the sheep-tax; amounts collected between August 1857 and February 1858, *Young* 8406-8408——The people opposed it at first, but afterwards paid the money freely, *ib.* 8409-8429——There were a few seizures, but nothing was ever sold; the people appeared to have plenty of money, *ib.* 8409-8429. 8472-8474. 8489-8494——There is no doubt that the police and sheep taxes must have pressed severely upon the people, *Hamilton* 8619-8622.

See also *Condition of the People.* *Relief.* *Sheep Tax.* *Taxes.*

Poor Rates. Mr. Nixon charges the poor-rates to the tenants, although they are rated under 4 *l.*, *Doherty* 1750-1760. 1774, 1775——Some of the people complain of having to pay the poor-rate, *Holland* 2395-2400——Persons rated under 4 *l.* have been rated to, and paid poor's-rate, *M'Fadden* 3258-3283. 3304. 3322-3329——Witness never heard that Mr. Copeland, before he sold his property to Mr. Nixon, entered into an agreement with his tenants that they were to pay the poor-rates, *ib.* 3644-3648——The people of the townland of Ray complained of having to pay the taxes, although they were valued under 4 *l.*, *Underwood* 4202, 4203.

Witness pays the poor's-rate for his tenantry, *Lord G. Hill* 6820-6823——On the old holdings witness charges poor-rate to the tenants, under an agreement that was existing before he bought the property; he does not charge them on the new cuts, *Nixon* 7243-7251. 7751-7760——He only charges half-rate, *ib.* 7660-7670. 7734-7745——The poor-rate was collected in Mr. Copeland's time; it had only just been struck when witness purchased the property, *ib.* 7671-7680. 7735-7745.

Population. Opinion that the county of Donegal is not over-populated, *W. S. Crawford* 4672-4678.

Potatoes. Great failure of the potato crop last year; after they were harvested they rotted in the pits, *H. M'Bride* 769. 922-924; *T. M'Bride* 2602-2605——There have been no potatoes exported from the district of late, *T. M'Bride* 2606, 2607——Should a failure of the potatoes happen this year, witness would say that the people would be worse off than they were in 1847 or 1848, *ib.* 2727-2731——There is not perhaps now much of a supply of potatoes in the country generally, as it is getting late in the season; present price of potatoes, *Olphert* 4721-4723——The failure of the potato crop last year was very trifling; price of potatoes, *Robertson* 7174-7177.—— *See* also *Crops.* *Sea Weed.*

Poverty. There may be some cases of poverty, but no destitution; there is an appearance of poverty among a great many of the people from their dirty habits, *Olphert* 5749-5752——But witness considers that they are better off than those in the district of which Mr. Doherty is the parish priest, *ib.* 5751.

See also *Condition of the People.* *Distress.*

Premiums. Witness gave premiums for clean houses; evidence relative to the competition for these premiums, *Lord G. Hill* 6837-6842.

Priests. After the appointment of this Committee there was a rush down of priests and strangers to all the houses, examining them, and there was quite a different state of things, *Olphert* 4753—— Witness is in the habit of visiting the houses of the people of Cloughaneely much oftener than the priests, and knows more about them, *ib.* 5045-5047—— Visited them previously to their being prepared for the inspection of the gentlemen, priests, and reporters, *ib.* 5566-5575——There are not many disputes about land in witness's neighbourhood, and if the clergy would interfere less with the settlement of the land, there would not be so many disputes as there are, *ib.* 5719-5734.

Witness has the interference of the priests to contend with, which makes it very difficult to manage the people, *Woodhouse* 5882. 5897-5900——Evidence relative to a circumstance which occurred in the island of Downey, a small island belonging to witness, showing the interference of the priests in witness's affairs, *ib.* 5904-5909. 5930-5948. 5974-5981——Witness came very little into contact with the gentlemen and reporters who came to visit the district, but one of the reporters told witness he had been very much deceived by the priests, *Young* 8483-8488. 8495-8514.

See also *Arbitrators.*

Proprietors.

Report, 1857-8—*continued.*

Proprietors. See *Landowners.*

Public Houses. Circumstances under which witness prevented a man of the name of Paddy Mulligan from setting up a public-house, *Lord G. Hill* 6719-6727.

R.

Ray Townland. The wretched appearance of the houses witness visited, and the miserable condition of the people of this townland, were similar to that which he has described as prevailing in the other districts which he has visited, *Underwood* 4205-4214.

Reclaimed Land. The people ascribe their present condition to the loss of the reclaimed land, the loss of the commonage, and also the partial failure of the potato crop, *M'Fadden* 3180-3183——How far any portion of the mountain land which witness took into his own hands in 1845 may be said to have been reclaimed, *Nixon* 7328-7333. 7481-7500. 7506-7510.

RELIEF:

1. *Evidence generally as to the Collection and Distribution of the Relief Fund.*
2. *Public Announcement that it was a Compensation to those who paid Police and Sheep Tax.*
3. *Numerous instances of Relief being afforded where it was not needed.*
4. *Mischievous Consequences of these Proceedings.*

1. *Evidence generally as to the Collection and Distribution of the Relief Fund:*

If relief had not been given to the people they would have been reduced to extreme destitution, *H. M'Bride* 762-768; *Doherty* 1834; *Gallagher* 2904-2906. 2914-2919; *M'Fadden* 3713-3724; *M'Grourty* 3841, 3842; *Underwood* 4216. 4282. 4296-4300. 4319, 4320; *Boyle* 4502-4504; *W. S. Crawford* 4631-4633——Evidence as to witness's employment in distributing the relief which has been sent to these people; amount thereof he has received himself, *H. M'Bride* 1075-1094——Witness was sent down purposely, at the request of Father Doherty, to be present at the distribution of the relief, *Williams* 1216-1218. 1220-1224——Witness does not think that the distribution at which he was present was got up for his own peculiar benefit, for the purpose of exhibiting the distress of the people to him, *ib.* 1257-1261.

Evidence relative to the appeal made to the public for the relief of these people, and result thereof; particulars as to the appropriation and distribution of the sum collected, *Doherty* 1264. 1341-1369. 1945-1965; *M'Gee* 2334. 2352. 2361-2364——Particulars as to the relief that was given by the parish priest in 1855, when there was great distress in the district of Cloughaneely; denial of the existence of this distress by Mr. Olphert, *M'Fadden* 3572, 3573. 3577-3585. 3592-3600.

2. *Public Announcement that it was a Compensation to those who paid Police and Sheep Tax:*

With regard to the relief that was distributed in May last, it was publicly announced that it would only be distributed to those who paid police-tax or sheep-tax, *Olphert* 4749. 4752-4754. 4770-4772; *Thompson* 6507-6512. 6567-6578——The whole of the people in Keeldrum who paid the taxes got relief, with two exceptions; as these parties were compelled to sell six heifers to pay the tax they were considered too well off to receive relief, *Olphert* 5445. 5456-5461——It was the general opinion of every one that this relief was given, not so much to relieve distress as to compensate the people for the sheep-tax; evidence in support of this assertion, *Brady* 6298-6309—— It was announced that the relief would be distributed to those who had paid the sheep and police tax, as a compensation to them for that payment, *Robertson* 7022——In the first instance none but those who paid the tax got relief, *Cruice* 8175.

3. *Numerous instances of Relief being afforded where it was not needed:*

Numerous cases in which relief has been given since 1 May, showing that the recipients were not in need thereof, *Olphert* 4755-4791. 4877-4883. 4890-4896. 5345-5359. 5430-5466; *Hunter* 6077-6098. 6110, 6111; *Brady* 6284-6297. 6355-6375. 6379-6424; *Thompson* 6513-6537. 6566. 6579 *et seq*; *Robertson* 6993-7021. 7023-7029. 7041. 7128-7134; *Stewart* 7773-7790; *Cruice* 8116-8166; *Young* 8444-8460. 8462-8467. 8476-8489——Evidence showing that further relief was not withheld from many of these people, even after their circumstances had been made known to the relief committee, *Olphert* 5467-5495——The people of Lower Keeldrum got relief, although they did not pay the taxes, *ib.* 5496, 5497.

4. *Mischievous Consequences of these Proceedings:*

Even if there had been no relief the people would not have starved, nor been in destitution, *Robertson* 7227-7229——Witness never heard of any relief being given in Cloughaneely before the appointment of this Committee, *Nixon* 7434-7436——The

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Relief—continued.

4. *Mischievous Consequences of these Proceedings*—continued.

distribution of gratuitous relief to the Irish poor is very injurious to them; it paralyses all exertion, *Hamilton* 8656.

See also *Begging. Distress. Famine Years. New Cuts. Outrages. Roman-catholic Clergy.*

Rents:

I. *Particulars as to the raising of the Rents in the District:*

1. Generally.

2. In different Townlands:

i. Baltony.
ii. Carrick.
iii. Cashel Hill.
iv. Crolly.
v. Dore.
vi. Keeldrum, Lower.
vii. Keeldrum, Upper.
viii. Lunniagh.
ix. Magheragallen.
x. Magheralosk.
xi. Meenacladdy.
xii. Meenaduff.
xiii. Middletown.
xiv. Moneybeg.
xv. Moneymore.
xvi. Stranacorcragh.
xvii. Tor.

II. *Explanation of the Circumstances under which the Rents have been raised.*

I. *Particulars as to the raising of the Rents in the District:*

1. Generally:

Lord George Hill's rents were collected a month earlier than usual last year, *H. M'Bride* 770-775; *M'Gee* 2300——The rent of a cow's grass was never 1*l.* before Lord George Hill came to Gweedore, *H. M'Bride* 789-792——The rents on Lord George Hill's property were too high; difficulties witness had in collecting them, *ib.* 814-831——The people used formerly to pay their rents tolerably well; there were very few cases of distraint, *ib.* 942-949.

At the period of witness's visit to the district of Cloughaneely, the people did not suffer so much from taxation as from the raising of the rents, *Browne* 1110. 1129, 1130. 1142-1145. 1154. 1188-1196——Extent of Lord George Hill's estate; number of acres he has taken from the tenants; rent of his estate, *Doherty* 1287-1292. 1300-1313—— A general increase of rent has taken place on Mr. Nixon's property since 1853; about the same time as the raising of the rents on Lord George Hill's estate, *Doherty* 1741-1744. 1769; *Holland* 2425-2432——Although the rents have been raised, they have been punctually though not cheerfully paid within the last two years, *Doherty* 2096-2110.

Witness holds half a cow's grass under Lord George Hill; the rent of it is 8*s.*; it was only 4*s.* formerly, *Gallagher* 2823-2827. 2888-2894——Some of the people complain of their rents having been raised, *Boyle* 4507—The rents on Mr. Olphert's property were raised in 1856 and 1857, *M'Fadden* 3586-3590——The rents have not been doubled in all the townlands, but in some of them they have been more than doubled, *ib.* 3621-3636.

2. In different Townlands:

i. Baltony:

Extent to which the rent of this townland has been raised, *M'Fadden* 3376-3385. 3393-3397.

ii. Carrick:

Evidence relative to the increase of rent per cow's grass in the four divisions of the townland of Carrick; it has increased from 6*s.* 8*d.* to 16*s.*; *H. M'Bride* 370-387—— Original rent; present rent, irrespective of the rent applotted on the new cuts, *Doherty* 1480-1482——The rents are much above the Government valuation, *ib.* 1484-1488.

iii. Cashel Hill:

Extent to which the rents have been raised in this townland, *M'Fadden* 3362-3365.

iv. Crolly:

Rise in the rents of the townland of Crolly; the people are very poor and live on sea-weed, *Doherty* 1702-1712.

v. Dore:

Amount of the former rent; amount of the present rent, *H. M'Bride* 537-540.

vi. Keeldrum, Lower:

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vii. Keeldrum,

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2. In different Townlands—*continued.*

vii. Keeldrum, Upper:

The people have lost a large portion of the mountain, and their rents have been raised, *M'Fadden* 3419-3425.

viii. Lunniagh:

Wretched state of the people of the townland of Lunniagh; increase in the rents, and also of the county cess, *H. M'Bride* 605-637——Former rent in this townland; increased rent in spite of the top lands and mountain commons having been taken away from the people, *Doherty* 1542-1551.

ix. Magheragallen:

Number of families in the district; number of cows' grass formerly; amount of the old rent; amount to which raised, *H. M'Bride* 513-521.

x. Magheralosk:

Witness lives in Gweedore, in the townland of Magheralosk; is a farmer, holding four cows' grass; since 1854 has paid 5 *l.* rent, before that time paid 2 *l.* 12 *s.* 6 *d.*, *T. M'Bride* 2535-2542. 2809-2811.

xi. Meenacladdy:

Evidence relative to the townland of Meenacladdy, of which Mr. Woodhouse is the landlord; extent to which the rent has been raised there, *Doherty* 1797-1800.

xii. Meenaduff:

Amount to which their rent was raised in 1854, *T. M'Bride* 2572-2574.

xiii. Middletown:

Increase of rent in the townland of Middletown, *H. M'Bride* 256-262.

xiv. Moneybeg:

Great extent to which the rents have been raised in the townland of Moneybeg, *Doherty* 1684-1692.

xv. Moneymore:

Extent to which the rent has been increased since 1853 in the townland of Moneymore, the property of Lord Leitrim, *Doherty* 1847-1850.

xvi. Stranacorcragh:

Number of cows' grass in the townland; amount to which the rent has been raised; increase in the county cess, *H. M'Bride* 567-573.

xvii. Tor:

Great increase of rent in the townland of Tor; large amount of taxes levied in this district, *Doherty* 1609-1620.

II. *Explanation of the Circumstances under which the Rents have been raised:*

Witness has never raised the rents in any of his townlands, with the exception of the two townlands he purchased in the Encumbered Estates Court, those of Lower Baltony and Cashel, *Olphert* 4834-4847. 4898——After the allotments were made on witness's estate, the tenants remained at the old rent for fourteen years; the raised rental is about equal to the Government valuation, which is under the letting value, *Lord G. Hill* 6671-6676. 6694-6698. 6812-6819——The rents on witness's estate have always been collected in November, *ib.* 6759-6761——Difficulty at first in collecting the increased rents, 6694-6698. 6850-6852——The new rent on Lord George Hill's property did not come into operation till 1854; amount of the increase; it is now under the Government valuation, *Robertson* 6967-6670. 7178-7187——The people have paid their rents tolerably well, and also their taxes, *ib.* 6971-6973.

Witness resides at Heathfield, near Dunfanaghy; purchased property in the district in 1845; received the rents from 1844, *Nixon* 7231-7233——Explanation relative to an arrangement which had been entered into at time Mr. Copeland held the property, which made them appear about one-third less than they really were, *ib.* 7234-7237——Rent of a cow's grass about the year 1800; in addition to the rent the people had to pay tithe and duty-days, and duty-fowl, *ib.* 7238-7242——Evidence showing that the rents are lower now than they were in 1798, *ib.* 7313-7318——Witness has never raised his rents, with the exception of the two townlands of Meenagoppog and Procklish, and these were raised as far back as 1844, *Stewart* 7769-7772.

See also *Doherty, Rev. Mr. Grazing. Kelp Trade. New Cuts*, 2. 4. *Poor Rates. Rundale System.*

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Rights of Ownership. Upon his own portion of the mountain witness has always exercised the rights of ownership, without dispute, ever since the allotment, *Lord G. Hill* 6667-6670. 6687-6689.

Roads. Evidence relative to the state of the roads in the district, *Nixon* 7614-7627.

Robertson, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been agriculturist and agent to Lord George Hill since 1840; 6942, 6943——The division of his property was in progress when witness went there, 6944——The arrangement that was made was that there was a certain quantity of the mountain laid off for the use of the tenants, and a certain quantity as the landlord's share, 6945-6954——The tenantry were perfectly satisfied with the arrangement; a sufficiency of grazing was laid off for the stock they had, 6945-6954——Lord George Hill paid taxes and cesses for his portion, and there was never any privilege of any sort for the tenants to graze upon it, 6955-6959.

The tenants' cattle have been impounded for grazing on his portion, 6958, 6959——Witness is intimately acquainted with the district; the people are in much better circumstances now than they were at the time of the famine, 6960-6962——There is no destitution whatever in the district; the crops were very good last year, 6963-6966——The new rent was not laid upon the tenants till the year 1854; the new rent is under the Government valuation, 6967-6970——The people have paid their rents tolerably well, and also their taxes, 6971-6973.

The sheep-tax has no doubt affected the people, but not so as to reduce them to a state of destitution, 6974-6977——Evidence showing the increase of stock in the district since 1849; 6977-6992——Instances which came under witness's cognizance, showing that many persons got relief who were in comparatively comfortable circumstances, 6993-7021. 7023-7029. 7041——It was announced that the relief would be distributed to those who had paid the sheep and police tax, as a compensation to them for that payment, 7022.

In contradiction of the statement that has been made, that it is almost impossible to get work at any fair remuneration, witness can affirm that it has been very difficult to get labourers during the winter and spring, 7030-7033——Evidence as to the general rate of wages in the district, 7034-7040——Tenants leaving the new cuts get a full valuation for their improvements, 7042-7045.

People who are about to take the new cuts are told that if they do so they will be struck off the relief list, 7046-7048——Evidence relative to the stocking trade in the district; the people have always been obliged to buy some of their wool, 7049-7059——Witness has instructions from Lord George Hill to see that no poor person is in want, and also to employ all the able-bodied labourers who may require work, 7060.

At the time of the famine there were many applications for work and relief, and also for some years afterwards, but now for many months witness has had no such application whatever, 7061-7064——Opinion that there is no destitution whatever, 7063—— Witness considers the clothing of the people to be better than it was seven or eight years ago, 7065-7072——This observation will apply also to their bedding, 7073.

At the time of Mr. Sharman Crawford's visit to the district, no means were taken to introduce him to witness by the priests who accompanied him, 7074-7082——The impression of the people is that when matters are settled in London, things are to go back to what they were twenty or thirty years ago; that the people who hold new cuts must leave them; and that the Scotch sheep must all be sent back to Scotland, 7083-7087——Witness has seen the people trying to hide their cattle; he suspects their bed clothes have also been hid, 7088, 7089.

The complaint of the people is that they are not allowed to trespass over the whole of the mountain; although the boundary is not fenced, it is well defined, and the people are well aware of it, 7091-7102——The loss of sheep from death or disease is very small, 7103-7110——The anxiety for new cuts has decreased since the parties who take them are struck off the relief list, 7111-7127.

Further instances in which relief has been given to persons who were not proper objects of it, 7128-7134——Numerous instances in which witness has been refused admittance into the houses since this inspection has been going on, 7135-7173. 7226——The failure of the potato crop last year was very trifling; price of potatoes, 7174-7177.

The new rent did not come into operation till 1854; amount of the increase, 7178-7187——Way in which witness arrived at the number of cattle the people had, 7188-7218——The new tax has no doubt diminished the resources of the people, but witness is not aware of any of them having been obliged to sell their cattle or crops in order to meet it, 7219-7226——Even if there had been no relief, the people would not have starved, nor been in destitution, 7227-7229.

Rock Town Townland. State of the houses witness visited in the townland of Rock Town, or Ballinacraig; general use of sea-weed as an article of food; high rent of the new cuts, *Underwood* 4161-4179.

Roman-

Roman-catholic Clergy. Witness has heard that the Roman-catholic clergymen purchased some Indian meal on their own credit, but they have got their money back again, *Olphert* 5038–5040——Way in which the relief was distributed by the clergy, *ib.* 5735–5745——The Roman-catholic clergy collected the money for this relief, and whoever distributed it did so under their orders, *Nixon* 7642–7644.

See also *Petitions. Relief.*

Rosses, The. Witness is of opinion that the appearance of the people of the whole of the Rosses is worse than in the district of Cloughaneely, *Olphert* 5192–5204.

Rundale System. Trouble witness took in getting the townland of Meenacladdy out of rundale, and making roads in it; assistance witness gave the tenants in the way of building, *Woodhouse* 5817–5822——After witness had divided the townland he had a valuation and raised the rent; but it is now less than the Government valuation, *ib.* 5823–5825. 5916–5929——Witness considers the rundale system is a bad system, *ib.* 5960–5973——When witness first purchased property, it was held in rundale, and he had it surveyed and laid out in separate farms, *Lord G. Hill* 6658–6660——When witness purchased the property the mountains were held in rundale; course witness took under these circumstances, *Nixon* 7060–7062. 7259, 7260——Instructions which were given by Lord George Hill to Mr. Robert Montgomery, who made the survey for him in 1840 and 1841; his Lordship's object was to take the property out of rundale, *Sweeney* 7993–8002.

Russell, Mrs. The rents had not been raised on Mrs. Russell's property, nor had the mountain commonage been taken away, but the people feared that it was coming, *Underwood* 3873–3877——Evidence as to the amount paid for the purchase of Mr. Russell's estate, and amount expended on it since, *Brady* 6268, 6269——The money that was laid out in the improvement of Mr. Russell's estate was indirectly for the benefit of the tenants as well as directly for the landlord, *ib.* 6435–6450—— The people living on the estate of Mrs. Russell have the same amount of commonage they had at the time Mr. Russell purchased the estate, *ib.* 6461–6464——The whole of the tenants on Mrs. Russell's property who paid the tax got relief, with one or two exceptions, *ib.* 6486–6488.

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Sandhills. The people had formerly the privilege of grazing their cattle upon the sand-banks, Mr. Nixon has deprived them of this privilege, and lets it at 2*s.* 6*d.* per cow's grass, *Doherty* 1780–1782——Encroachment of the sand upon the arable land in this townland, *ib.* 1783——Evidence relative to the sand-hills that were taken away by Mr. Nixon, *M'Fadden,* 3649–3654.

Scotchmen. Witness has not let any of his mountain to Scotch tenants, *Stewart* 7768——Way in which the introduction of Scotch tenants has been of great service to the country, *ib.* 7793. 7795, 7796——Grounds for forming the opinion that the tenants were in no wise injured by the letting of the mountains to the Scotch farmers, *Sweeney* 8006–8015. 8029–8038.——*See* also *Alton Estate. Outrages.*

Scrofula. See *Health of the District.*

Sea-Weed:

1. *Statements as to the general Use of Sea-weed as an Article of Food.*
2. *Refutation of these Statements.*
3. *Denial of the Allegations that the People have been prevented from getting the Sea-weed.*
4. *How far particular sorts of Sea-weed are considered a Luxury.*

1. *Statements as to the general Use of Sea-weed as an Article of Food:*

Evidence as to the general use of sea-weed as an article of food, in order to make their other food last out, *H. M'Bride* 196–255. 522–530; *Williams* 1211–1214. 1228–1230; *Doherty* 1319–1324. 2378–1381. 1390, 1391 1405–1409. 1454, 1455. 1512. 1778, 1779; *M'Gee* 2290–2294. 2312–2314; *Ferry* 2947 2960. 2956–2967. 3073–3075; *M'Fadden* 3205, 3206. 3211. 3222, 3223. 3473–3477. 3601–3606; *M'Groarty* 3799. 3802–3805; *Underwood* 4060, 4061; *Boyle* 4338–4340; *W. S. Crawford* 4623–4626; *J. Crawford* 4699——More sea-weed has been consumed by these people last year than for many years previously, *M'Bride* 313–345; *Ferry* 2862–2865. 2961–2964; *Boyle* 4338–4340.

2. *Refutation of these Statements:*

Till this appeal was published, witness never heard of any one subsisting on sea-weed; some of them may use a little of it as a relish to their potatoes, *Olphert* 4864–4875. 5178–5184. 5447, 5448——Witness has never made any charge to his tenants for the right of going to the shore for this sea-weed, *ib.* 4910–4912——The statements which have

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2. *Refutation of these Statements*—continued.

been made that there are 800 families subsisting on sea-weed, or using it to prolong their food, is entirely without foundation; many persons use particular sorts of it as a relish to their food, *Brady* 6263-6267. 6335-6348; *Nixon* 7734; *Stewart* 7808-7818. 7882-7889. 7914, 7915——Witness has seen the people use sea-weed, but not the sea-weed that has been represented in some of the evidence before this Committee, *Thompson* 6626, 6627——In any of the houses witness has visited he has found very little use of sea-weed, *Cruice* 8352-8370——Witness never saw sea-weed used in Gweedore as food, *Young* 8468-8471——Witness did not see any sea-weed in the houses he visited, *Hamilton* 8599.

3. *Denial of the Allegations that the People have been prevented from getting the Sea-weed:*

Witness was told that the people were prevented by the proprietors from getting sea-weed, *Browne* 1181-1187——Explanation relative to the notion that has prevailed among the people that they were refused the right to take away the sea-weed, *Doherty* 1885-1891——Witness is employed by the people of Magheragallan as shore bailiff, to prevent the people of other districts from taking away the sea-weed, *Gallagher* 2853-2861——No payment has ever been required from the people for taking sea-weed on the shore, or using it, *Lord G. Hill* 6747, 6748——Circumstances under which witness charges a nominal sum for the collection of sea-weed, *Nixon* 7283-7286.

4. *How far particular sorts of Sea-weed are considered a Luxury:*

Witness has never known persons eat sea-weed who were not compelled to eat it from necessity, *H. M'Bride* 781-787. 903-921. 973-975——Has never known it sold in the streets of Waterford, or other towns in Ireland, as a luxury, *ib.* 788. 906-908. 975——Witness never heard of any of the people consuming sea-weed from choice, *Doherty* 2054-2060——In small quantities it is not at all an unwholesome food; witness has eaten it himself, and prescribed it to his better sort of patients, *Brady* 6265.

There are some sorts of sea-weed that are used by people of all classes, but witness knows nothing about what is called dolamaun, *Lord G. Hill* 6738, 6739——Witness knows that some descriptions of sea-weed are eaten, and always have been eaten, in that county, *Maunsell* 7937——Results of an analysis made on various descriptions of sea-weed by Dr. Apjohn and Dr. Davy in July 1854, showing that there is nothing unwholesome in the moderate use of them, *ib.* 7938-7840——The result in the experiments in the different species of sea-weed proves that what is called the dolamaun is the most nutritious of them all, *ib.* 7980-7986.

See also *Food.* *Kelp trade.*

Sheep Tax. Witness was obliged to sell the clothing he had to pay the sheep-tax and the police-tax, *Gallagher* 2895-2898——Reason for the sheep-tax being levied, *Boyle* 4528-4535——Witness considers that the greatest aggravation of the distress is the tax for the sheep and the police, *W. S. Crawford* 4627-4631——Evidence showing that, generally speaking, the amount these people received was equivalent to half the sheep or police tax they paid; in fact, they considered they were receiving their tax, *Olphert* 4767, 4768. 4787, 4788.

Witness never heard of any destitution till a deputation came down to him to ask if he could do anything to relieve them from the sheep-tax, *Woodhouse* 5853. 5862——The sheep-tax has no doubt affected the people, but not so as to reduce them to a state of destitution, *Robertson* 6974-6977——The new tax has no doubt diminished the resources of the people, but witness is not aware of any of them having been obliged to sell their cattle or their crops in order to meet it, *ib.* 7219-7226.

See also *Condition of the People.* *Outrages.* *Police Tax.* *Relief*, 2.

Shoes and Stockings. Shoes and stockings are not generally worn among the lower classes of women in Ireland, *Doherty* 1979-1982.

Sickness. There is a considerable decrease of sickness and disease this year in the district, *Brady* 6315-6321. 6451-6456. 6456-6469.

See also *Disease.* *Distress.* *Health of the District.*

Spirits. The consumption of spirits in the district has greatly increased within the last three or four years, *Olphert* 5755-5761. 5763-5766——The consumption of whiskey has not decreased, *Thompson* 6558, 6559.

Squatters. See *New Cuts.*

Stewart, Rev. Charles Frederick. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Rector of the parish of Clondahorkey; has property in the district of Clanghaneely, 7761, 7762——Is a proprietor, as well as rector of the parish of Clondahorkey; has been constantly resident there since 1831; manages his own property, and collects his own rents, 7763-7766——

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Stewart, Rev. Charles Frederick. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Is intimately acquainted with the condition and habits of the people, 7767——Witness has not let any of his mountain to Scotch tenants, 7768——Has never raised his rents, with the exception of the two townlands of Meenagoppog and Procklish, and these were raised as far back as 1844; 7769-7772.

Witness is aware that a fund, called the "Relief Fund," has been distributed on his property, 7773——Has heard that it was in consequence of the destitution of his tenants that relief was administered, 7774——If they were destitute, it could not be from the same causes that are said to have operated in other districts, namely, the raising of his rents, and the letting of his mountains to Scotchmen, 7775——Instances of a few cases as samples, showing that the people who received relief were not in need thereof; this relief was granted after the 1st May, after this Committee was appointed, 7776-7790—— The townland of Meenagoppog was subject to the police tax; the other townlands were not subject to any tax whatever, 7780-7783——Witness is well acquainted with Mr. Olphert's property, 7791—— Grounds for forming the opinion that his tenants have more than sufficient grazing, independently of the portion that has been let to Scotchmen, 7792-7796.

Way in which the introduction of Scotch tenants has been of great service to the country, 7793. 7795, 7796——The same remarks will apply to Lord George Hill's property, 7797, 7798——Since the outrages the people have been subject to notices to quit; this has merely been done as a check upon them, 7799——Witness would say most unequivocally that there is no destitution in that part of the country with which he is acquainted, 7800, 7801.

The crops last year were very good, and there is a good supply of potatoes at the markets at the present time; price of potatoes; price of Indian meal, 7802-7807. 7916-7923——Witness saw it stated in the appeal of the 18th February that the people were living on sea-weed, cockles and small shell-fish; witness knows that this is not the case; the people do eat sea-weed, but it is as a relish to their potatoes, 7808-7818. 7882-7889. 7914, 7915——Witness is well acquainted with the Rev. Mr. M'Gee, the Roman-catholic clergyman; they have always co-operated where there has been any distress; they worked together during the famine year, 7819, 7820.

Witness would not sign the appeal, as he considered that it was not only unnecessary, but worse than useless, 7821-7828. 7890-7902. 7910-7913——When the people were first called upon for the payment of the police tax, they appeared to have no difficulty in paying it, 7829-7831——The clothing of the people is as good as witness ever saw it, and a great deal better than he has often seen it, 7832-7837. 7903-7906——Witness is quite certain that the beds and bedding of the people is as comfortable as he has been in the habit of seeing it for the last ten years, 7838, 7839.

Witness had no applications for relief last year, 7840——The general health of the people and their general appearance is as good as witness ever saw it, 7841-7843——Mr. Sharman Crawford's visit was too flying a one for him to see much of the district, 7844, 7845——Evidence in support of the opinion that the main statements in the appeal of the 18th February are totally unfounded, 7846-7881——There are several signatures to the appeal of reverend gentlemen, totally strangers to the district, 7924-7926.

Stock. Considerable decrease in the quantity of stock owned by the people of the districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, between 1854 and the summer of 1857, *H. M'Bride* 543-563. 831. 841-845; *Browne* 1145-1180; *Doherty* 1599-1605; *O'Dougherty* 2236, 2237; *M'Fadden* 3168. 3196-3201. 3207-3210. 3212-3215. 3334-3348. 3366. 3388-3392. 3466; *Boyle* 4379-4390. 4392-4408. 4313-4328——There is now very little stock in the townland of Carrick; there are more than twenty families without cows, *Doherty* 1475-1477——Out of the thirty-one families in Linniagh, there are about fifteen who have no stock, *ib.* 1527, 1528——Instances showing that the stock in the townland of Ardnagappary has been greatly reduced since Lord George Hill's accession to the property, *ib.* 1581-1587——The people in the district of Meenacladdy are not so poor as regards stock as they are in some other districts, *ib.* 1804, 1805.

Number of families in the townland of Magheralosk; number who have cattle, *T. M'Bride* 2550-2556——Object of the people in having stock upon their estate belonging to their children instead of to themselves, *Underwood* 4313-4318——In May last, witness was sent out by the parish priest to take notes as to the stock the people had, and as to their general condition; results of this inspection, *Boyle* 4341 *et seq.*—— Witness has been informed that police constable Thompson has been going round the district of Cloughaneely with Mr. Nixon, taking an account of the stock; manner in which they have taken this account, *ib.* 4481-4501——Manner in which witness made his calculations and returns as to the stock of his people in the townlands he visited, *ib.* 4536-4544.

There is treble the stock and a great deal more reclaimed land than there was twenty years ago, *Olphert* 4902-4904. 5205-5234. 5577-5595——Great difficulties in making any statistical returns as to the number of stock in the different townlands at the present

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time; the people seem to be aware that some inspection has been going on lately, *Thompson* 6538-6544. 6590-6614——Evidence showing the increase of stock in the district since 1849, *Robertson* 6977-6992——Witness has seen people trying to hide their cattle; he suspects their bed clothes have also been hid, *ib.* 7088, 7089——Witness did not go round with police constable Thompson, of Cross Roads, to take the stock of his tenantry, nor did he tell him to do so, or know that he had done it, *Nixon* 7374-7376. 7432, 7433——Return showing the number and description of live stock in the several baronies of the county of Donegal in each year from 1847 to 1856 inclusive, *App. p.* 24.

See also *Cattle. Condition of the People. Grazing. Sheep Tax. Taxes.*

Stocking Trade. Witness is not aware that 600*l.* worth of stockings was sold last year from the district of Gweedore, *H. M'Bride* 940, 941——Reason why the fact of 600*l.* worth of stockings having been sold by people on Lord George Hill's property is no indication of their prosperity, *Doherty* 2028-2031——Former flourishing state of the stocking trade of Bunbeg, which was introduced by witness, *Lord George Hill* 6837-6842——Evidence relative to the stocking trade in the district; the people have always been obliged to buy some of their wool, *Robertson* 7049-7059.

Stores or Shops. Evidence as to Lord George Hill having established a store for the sale of general goods at a place called Bunbeg, *H. M'Bride* 700-702——Also as to his having established a bakery, and as to one of his tenants having been ejected for having attempted a competition with this bakery, *ib.* 703-727. 925-929——Refutation of the statement made by Hugh M'Bride, in his evidence, that witness would not allow any competition with people he had set up in business, *Lord G. Hill* 6711-6718.

See also *Bunbeg.*

Stranacorcragh Townland. Evidence relative to the condition of the townland of Stranacorcragh, *M'Bride* 565, 566; *Doherty* 1572-1577.

Stranaekilmartin Townland. Circumstances of the people of the townland of Stranaekilmartin, showing their present miserable state, *H. M'Bride* 663-676——Evidence relative to the condition of the townland of Stranaekilmartin; number of families in the townland; number of beds; use of sea-weed for food, *Doherty* 1567-1571.

Strangers. Few strangers take the new cuts, *Underwood* 4244-4248——Witness has let two farms to strangers, to show the people that the land was his own, *Nixon* 7305-7307.

Stroughanreagh Townland. Evidence relative to the condition of the townland of Stroughanreagh, the property of Mr. Nixon, *M'Fadden* 3284 *et seq.*

Sweeney, Charles Hazlitt. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Land surveyor and valuator, and an associate of the College of Civil Engineers; lives in Ramelton, in the county of Donegal, about twenty miles from the eastern side of the district of Gweedore, 7988-7990——Is intimately acquainted with this district, from having been employed making surveys, 7991, 7992——Instructions which were given by Lord George Hill to Mr. Robert Montgomery, who made the survey for him in 1840 and 1841; his Lordship's object was to take the property out of rundale, 7993-8002.

The tenants had a sufficient quantity of grazing land allotted to them for any stock which they possessed, 8003——Object of making what were called the new cuts, 8004, 8005——Grounds for forming the opinion that the tenants were in no wise injured by the letting of the mountains to the Scotch farmers, 8006-8015. 8029-8038——Witness made the survey of Mrs. Russell's estate, 8021-8028.

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Taxes. Cases in which the people have been compelled to sell their stock and crop, and in some instances their bedding and clothing, in order to pay the taxes, *H. M'Bride* 22-29. 170, 171. 267-269. 346-353. 950-967; *Doherty* 1410-1428. 1434-1453; *M'Gee* 2301-2307; *Ferry* 2945, 2946. 2970-2975——The people attribute their present wretched condition to the taking away of the mountains, to the doubling of the rents, and also to the increased taxation, *M'Gee* 2365——Evidence as to witness having been compelled to sell three of his cows last year at half their value in order to pay his taxes, *T. M'Bride* 2812-2822.

Witness has been obliged to part with some of his stock crop to pay the taxes, *Ferry* 2938-2944. 2997-2999. 3015. 3071, 3072——The people pay taxes, and also poor-rate, although they are valued under 4*l.*, *M'Fadden* 3173-3176——The people ascribe their present miserable condition to the abstraction of the mountain pasture, to the increase of rent, and to taxation, *M'Groarty* 3801; *Underwood* 4008-4010——Witness holds seventeen or eighteen townlands in the district, and only one of them paid the sheep

Report, 1857-8—*continued.*

Taxes—continued.

sheep and police taxes, *Olphert* 4750, 4751——Mr. M'Fadden attributed the distress to excessive taxation and increased rents, *Hamilton* 8560.

See also *Collection of the Taxes. County Cess. Income Tax. Police Tax. Poor-rate. Sheep Tax.*

Tenant Farmers. Considered the labouring classes in other districts better off than the tenant farmers in these districts, *M'Groarty* 3780-3782.

Tenant League. Statement made by Mr. Doherty to the people, that it was against the principle of the tenant league that they should pay more than 1 *l.* a year for their farms, *Cruice* 8348-8351.

Tenant Right. The tenants have always been paid the usual amount of tenant right when the lands have been taken from them, *Doherty* 1313, 1314. 2022-2024——Any person who asserts that Lord George Hill has always paid tenant right does not tell the truth, *T. M'Bride* 2794-2800——Security for improvements would be one remedy for the present state of things, *Underwood* 4226, 4227——Witness has never taken any land from any tenant without paying the usual tenant right, *Lord G. Hill* 6709, 6710——Tenants leaving the new cuts get a full valuation for their improvements, *Robertson* 7042-7045——Amount to which tenant right has risen on the estate, *Nixon* 7466-7470.

Tenants. See *Landowners. Scotchmen.*

Thompson, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Constable belonging to the constabulary at Cross Roads; is well acquainted with the district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, 6504-6506——With regard to the relief that was distributed in May last, witness understood that it was publicly announced that it would only be distributed to those who paid police-tax or sheep-tax, 6507-6512. 6567-6578——Was present at the distribution of some of the relief, and saw the persons who got relief; evidence showing that many of these people were in good circumstances as regards stock, &c., and did not require it, 6513-6537. 6566. 6579 *et seq.*

Great difficulties in the way of making any statistical returns as to the number of stock in the different townlands at the present time; the people seem to be aware that some inspection has been going on lately, 6538-6544. 6590-6614——The applications for relief now are nothing to be compared to what they were in the time of the famine in 1847; 6545-6550——To say that there is destitution as represented in the appeal that has been made is perfect nonsense, 6551-6557.

The consumption of whiskey has not decreased, 6558, 6559——The people have much improved of late years both in appearance and clothing, 6560-6565——Witness is prepared to state a great number of instances in which relief has been given to people in good circumstances, 6566. 6579-6584——Witness considers that on the whole the district has considerably improved since 1847; the people are better clothed and better fed than they were then, 6585-6589.

The people of the district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely are better off than those of many of the neighbouring districts, 6615-6625. 6628-6631——Witness has seen the people use sea-weed, but not the sea-weed that has been represented in some of the evidence before this Committee, 6626, 6627.

Threatening Notices. Witness has received notices threatening his life, unless he did justice to his tenants: he has nothing to reproach himself with in that way, *Lord G. Hill* 6762-6766——This was after the Scotch farmer took possession of the mountains, *ib.* 6767.

Tory Island. Increase of rent in Tory Island; particulars of a case of distraint on one of the tenants, *Holland* 2414-2424——Number of families in the island; extent to which the rent has been raised, *M'Fadden* 3553-3555——Witness has frequently attempted both to let and sell Tory Island on account of the annoyance with the tenants, *Woodhouse* 6222-6228——Evidence relative to the condition of the people of Tory Island, *ib.* 5869 *et seq.*——Witness never laid an interdict upon boats going to Tory Island, *M'Fadden* 8709.——*See* also *Kelp Trade.*

Trade. Witness lives at Letterkenny, about thirty miles from Gweedore; is manager for Mr. Joseph Gallagher, general merchant in Letterkenny, *O'Dougherty* 2191-2193——Visits the districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely in the way of business about every two months, *ib.* 2194-2199——Mr. Gallagher's business with the district has greatly decreased since 1853, *ib.* 2200. 2253-2279——Witness attributes this to the people having lost the mountains, and their having latterly to pay the sheep-cess and the police-tax, and also to the rent being raised, *ib.* 2201——Has lived at Falcarragh, in the district of Cloughaneely, seventeen years; is a nailer by trade, and keeps a china and glass shop,

Report, 1857-8—*continued.*

Trade—continued.

Boyle 4321-4327——Falling off in witness's trade; it has never been so bad as last winter, *ib.* 4331-4337.——*See* also *Kelp Trade.* *Stocking Trade.*

Trespassing. Evidence as to the fines upon the people for their cattle trespassing, *M'Fadden* 3189-3195——One great hardship is the price imposed on the people for their cattle straying on the mountain; difficulty of their preventing this, *W. S. Crawford* 4669——Witness has never threatened to fine any one for putting their cattle on the mountains, *Olphert* 5659-5661——Steps witness has taken to preserve the portion of the mountain reserved to himself from being trespassed upon by the people, *Lord G. Hill* 6826-6836——Witness charges fines to his tenants for their cattle trespassing in order to preserve his right, *Nixon* 7548-7562.——*See* also *Impounding Cattle.*

Tullaghobegly Irish. General condition of the townland of Tullaghobegly Irish, of which the Rev. Mr. Nixon is proprietor, *M'Fadden* 3235 *et seq.*; 3253-3257.

Turf. Witness's tenants have as much turf as they can cut for fuel without any charge, *Olphert* 4913-4915——Witness charges a nominal sum for the use of turf, to preserve his turbary rights, *Nixon* 7310.——*See* also *Fuel.*

U.

Underwood, Thomas Neilson. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Law student; resides in Strabane, in the county of Tyrone, 3855, 3856——Visited the district of Gweedore and Cloughaneely in 1854-55, with a view to investing money in it for a friend in the purchase of property, 3859, 3860——Witness thus made himself personally acquainted with the condition of the people in the district, 3861, 3862——Witness speaks principally of Mrs. Russell's property, 3863, 3864——Some of the estates were on sale when witness went down; particulars relative to the rental of Mrs. Russell's estate, 3866, 3867——It was in 1855 that witness first visited the district; witness was not prepared to meet the destitution that he saw, 3868-3872.

The rents had not been raised on Mrs. Russell's property, nor had the mountain commonage been taken away, but the people feared that it was coming, 3873-3877—— Subsequent visits witness has paid to the district; the last visit was in May 1858; 3878-3883——Went there purposely on a tour of inspection, 3884, 3885——Number of houses witness visited in the district of Magheraclogher or Middletown, 3886-3892——The exterior appearance of some of the houses was neat and clean, but the interior presented nothing but squalid wretchedness, 3893-3897——Miserable state of their bedding and bed-clothes; their principal food was sea-weed; many of them had no furniture whatever, 3898-3930.

The clothing of the people exhibited destitution, destitution positive and unmistakeable; this was after they had received various contributions of clothing, 3931-3944—— Witness visited the townland of Carrick, and examined the new cuts marked out in that district; evidence showing that the people occupying them were in a sad and saddening position, 3945-3951——Description of the houses, furniture, beds, bedding, and clothing of some of these people; they appeared to be wretchedly fed, 3952-3981. 3997-4001.

Particular description of the people of the townland of Glasheron, showing their destitute condition as regards food, clothing, and bedding, 3982-3996 4002-4009——Their rents had been raised, and they had little stock left, 3987-3989. 4002, 4003——The people attributed their poverty to the fact of the mountain commonage being taken away and to the taxes, 4008-4010.

Evidence relative to witness's visit to the townland of Magheraroarty, showing that the people are in a state of great destitution, 4011-4034——Poor condition of the people of Derryconnor Mountain as to food, bedding, and clothing; high rent they have to pay for the new cuts, 4035-4059——General use of sea-weed as an article of food in the townland, 4060, 4061——Period of witness's visit to the townland of Upper Keeldrum, the property of Mr. Wybrants Olphert, 4062, 4063. 4126——Number of houses witness visited in this townland; particulars in detail relative to the condition of these houses and their occupants, 4064-4129. 4148-4160. 4188, 4189.

The conclusion witness arrived at from his inspection was, that their food was bad, their clothing wretched, their habitations wretched, and the entire appearance of destitution over the district unmistakeable, 4125——Destitute condition of the people of the townland of Fawnaboy; high rent of the new cuts in this townland; poor nature of the soil, 4130-4146——Low rate of wages in this district, 4147——State of the houses witness visited in the townland of Rock Town or Ballinacraig; general use of sea-weed as an article of food; high rent of the new cuts, 4161-4179.

High rents paid for the new cuts in the townland of Ardsbeg, the property of Mr. Olphert, 4180-4187——The people of the townland of Baltoney attribute their poverty principally to the fact of the mountain having been taken away from them, 4190-4194 ——Witness

Report, 1857-8—*continued.*

Underwood, Thomas Neilson. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

——Witness visited Mr. Nixon's estate; visited the townland of Ray, 4195-4198——Complaint of the people of this townland of there being duty days, 4199-4201——They complained also of having to pay the taxes, although they were valued under 4 *l.*, 4202, 4203——The appearance of the houses witness visited and the condition of the people were similar to that which he has described as prevailing in the other districts which he has visited, 4205-4214.

Opinion that there has been an increasing destitution since 1854 and 1855; 4215. 4228-4236——If it had not been for the relief the people must either have died or gone into the workhouse, 4216——They are a peaceable and mild people, 4217——Witness has travelled a great deal in Ireland, and he considers this is the worst district he has ever seen, 4218-4222——Emigration would be one remedy, 4226——Security for improvements another, 4226, 4227.

There is no employment for the people; no manufacturing employment, and no labour employment, 4239-4243——Few strangers take the new cuts, 4244-4248——Witness inquired respecting the alleged destruction of sheep, and was informed that the sheep were stolen, 4252, 4253——Reference to the death of a man named James Whoorisky from starvation, 4254-4269——If relief is withdrawn from these people before harvest, they will be in a state of famine, 4282.

The district is not generally speaking unhealthy, but there are many cases of scrofula arising from low living; the people have many of them a death-like appearance, 4283-4294——Evidence relative to the value which witness would put upon the land in this district, 4301-4313——Circumstances under which witness distributed relief to the tenantry of the Rev. Mr. Stewart, although they are kindly treated, and have not been put into a condition of destitution, 4296-4300. 4319, 4320——Object of the people in having stock upon their estate belonging to their children instead of to themselves, 4314-4318.

V.

Value of Land. Evidence relative to the value which witness would put upon the land in this district, *Underwood* 4301-4313.

W.

Wages. The rate of wages in the district is about 8 *d.* per day in winter, and 10 *d.* generally in summer, and in exceptional cases 1 *s.*, *H. M'Bride* 728-760; *Doherty* 1662-1682; *Ferry* 2979-2989. 3024-3027——The rate of wages is from 6 *d.* to 8 *d.* a day; there is no employment for labour in the district, *T. M'Bride* 2600, 2601——Witness employs himself as a labourer when he can get employment; wages are from 6 *d.* to 10 *d.* a day, *Gallagher* 2831-2834. 2907-2913——Low rate of wages in the district, *Underwood* 4147.

As regards wages, witness has never known the people refuse to work for 10 *d.* a day if they could get employment; at turf-cutting only are the wages higher, *Boyle* 4454-4460——Evidence in detail relative to the rate of wages in the district, *Olphert* 5392-5429. 5711-5718——Witness gives employment to many of the people in fencing and ditching; he contracts with them and they can earn from 2 *s.* to 3 *s.* a day; they refuse to work for witness when they have work to do of their own, *Hunter* 6065-6073. 6184-6208.

The rate of wages has rather increased, *Brady* 6260-6262——In contradiction of the statement that has been made that it is almost impossible to get work at any fair remuneration, witness can affirm that it has been very difficult to get labourers during the winter and spring, *Robertson* 7030-7033——Evidence as to the general rate of wages in the district, *ib.* 7034-7040——Advanced rate of wages in the district, *Nixon* 7693, 7694.

See also *Condition of the People.* *Employment.* *Kelp Trade.*

Whoorisky, James. Reference to the death of a man named James Whoorisky, from starvation, *Underwood* 4254-4269.

Williams, James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Is connected with the Dublin "Evening Post," 1197——Was sent by the proprietor, Mr. Conway, to visit the districts of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, 1198——Visited what is called the Bog of Gweedore, on the 8th March 1858, on Lord George Hill's property; was there about two hours, and visited forty-five houses, 1199-1207——Every house witness went into, he was told that the

Report, 1857-8—*continued.*

Williams, James. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

man was the proprietor of the house, and the rentholder of what they called the cut, upon which the house was built; size of these cuts, and rent paid, 1208, 1209——Condition witness found these people in as regards their bedding; under some of the beds he discovered about half a barrel of a poor kind of potatoes, 1210——These potatoes with sea-weed formed their food, 1211-1214.

The day of witness's arrival was the day announced for the distribution of clothing and relief, 1216-1218——Deplorable destitution of those people with regard to personal covering, 1219——Witness had been sent down purposely at the request of Father Doherty, to be present at the distribution, 1220-1224——The impression that was conveyed to witness was, that these people, living very much upon the sea-weed, were prohibited by Lord George Hill from availing themselves of that source of food, 1228-1230.

What witness saw in Gweedore was a more deplorably degraded state of destitution than he ever saw in the most distressed parts of Ireland in the famine years of 1848 and 1849; 1231-1245——Wretched state of the habitations of the people; there were only a couple of decent houses in the place, 1246, 1247. 1254-1256——The people attributed their destitution to the deprivation of the mountain commonage, and their being confined to the lowland, or the cut, and to the rack-rent, in some cases doubled and trebled, 1248-1253——It was witness's impression that Lord George Hill wished to exterminate the whole race, 1248-1253——Witness does not think that the distribution at which he was present was got up for his own peculiar benefit, for the purpose of exhibiting the distress of the people to him, 1257-1261.

Woodhouse, John Obins. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Was formerly a solicitor in Dublin; has purchased property in several counties in Ireland, particularly in Donegal, 5773, 5774——The townlands witness purchased in Donegal, 5775——Alton is one of the townlands said to have been taken from the people, and given to Scotchmen, 5776-5780——Some short time after witness's purchase, he had some idea of building a cottage on this townland, as a summer residence, 5781.

Difficulty witness had of getting rid of the only tenant who was on the property, a man of the name of M'Swine or Sweeney; large sum witness had to pay him before he could get rid of him, 5781-5787—— Dirty and wretched state of this man's house, although when he went out he took away in money due and stock, at least 400*l.*; 5783——He kept all his cattle in his room with himself, and when he went out forty loads of manure were taken out of the house, 5783——The appearance of his house would have done for the show for the newspaper reporters, 5787——After this witness abandoned the idea of building a residence on the property; steps he took to let it, 5788; one or two persons had it for a short time, and it was eventually let to a Mr. Wright of Aberdeen, 5788, 5789. 5792.

Witness never heard of any person having the right of grazing upon it but himself, 5790, 5791. 5796-5800——Shortly after witness let the property to Mr. Wright, he saw 800 sheep on the mountain, black-faced sheep brought from Scotland, 5793, 5794——It was upon these sheep that the first outrage was made in the country, 5795——In December 1856 his shepherd was attacked, 5801-5806——The statement that has been made that the proprietors taking away the mountains is one cause of the destitution of the people is totally false, 5801——After the attack upon his shepherd, Mr. Wright surrendered the place; Mr. Hunter is now the tenant, 5807-5812——There is no house upon it but the house M'Swiney lived in, 5810-5812.

Evidence relative to the townland of Meenacladdy; acreage thereof; extent of mountain land; number of families living on the townland, 5813-5816——Trouble witness took in getting this townland out of rundale, and making roads in it; assistance witness gave the tenants in the way of building, 5817-5822——After witness had divided the townland, he had a valuation and raised the rent, but it is now less than the Government valuation, 5823-5825. 5916-5929——Reasons why witness considers that he left the tenants a sufficient portion of the mountain grazing; extent, in acres, which was laid off for them; proportion witness retained in his own possession, 5826-5838. 5927-5929.

Witness divided his part from that which was retained to the people, by a ditch, for the making of which he paid, 5838, 5839. 5841——Witness's next step was to endeavour to let it, but the priests would not allow it to be let; and there is now no prospect of getting it let, 5838. 5840. 5842-5851——Witness has done everything he can to satisfy the claims of the people in this townland, but it has all gone for nothing, 5852.

Witness believes that the people of the townland of Meenacladdy are better off than they used to be, 5853, 5854——Witness never heard of any destitution till a deputation came down to him to ask if he could do anything to relieve them from the sheep-tax, 5853.

Report, 1857-8—*continued.*

Woodhouse, John Obins. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

5853. 5862——Evidence showing that witness has never received a single halfpenny for the new cuts that he made, 5855-5861——Explanation of the circumstances of the case of a man of the name of O'Donnell, whose rent witness is stated by one of the newspaper witnesses to have raised three times, 5865-5868. 5916.

Evidence relative to the condition of the people of Tory Island, 5869 *et seq.*——Though the trade in kelp in the island has been annually improving, witness has never been able to get a farthing more rent, 5869-5885. 5949-5959——Explanation of the statement that has been made by one of the witnesses before this Committee, that the Glasgow merchants were prevented coming and buying the kelp in consequence of a proceeding of witness's, 5871-5874. 5882-5884. 5957-5959——Besides the kelp, the people have land, and there is also fishing on the coast, 5881. 5885-5896.

Witness has the interference of the priests to contend with, which makes it very troublesome managing these people, 5882. 5897-5900——Witness has never taken duty days, 5901——Has never ejected a tenant, 5902, 5903——Nor has he taken any mountain from them otherwise than in the manner already described to the Committee, 5903.

Evidence relative to a circumstance which occurred on the Island of Dowery, a small island belonging to witness, showing the interference of the priests in witness's affairs, 5904-5909. 5892-5985——At the time of the famine, frequent applications were made to witness for relief; he has had no such applications within the last two years, 5910-5914.

Further evidence with respect to the interference of the priests in the affair of the Meenacladdy mountains, 5930-5948. 5974-5981——Witness considers the rundale system is a bad system, and he is employed in getting out of it as fast as possible, 5960-5973——Witness does not believe that his tenantry in Meenacladdy ever had the right of grazing on the mountains, 5996-6001.

[Second Examination.]—Witness has frequently attempted both to let and sell Tory Island on account of the annoyance with the tenants, 6222-6228.

Woodhouse, Mr. See *Alton Estate.*

Work. These people never work during the winter, *Hamilton* 8613, 8614.

See also *Employment.*

Workhouses. Witness believes that with respect to some of the townlands of which he has been giving evidence there is no one in the poorhouse; way in which this may be accounted for, *H. M'Bride* 982-1005. 1053-1057——Strong objection of the people to go into the workhouse, *Brown* 1148-1153; *Holland* 2453-2461. 2507, 2508. 2516-2519——Way in which witness accounts for the fact that in February 1856 there were forty-one people in the workhouse against twenty-eight in 1857, and 22 in 1858, *Doherty* 1989-1993——The people do not like going into the workhouse, as they think they have bad usage there, and they are obliged to give up their own cabins before they go in, *Ferry* 3076-3110——Way in which witness accounts for the reluctance of the people to go into the workhouse, *M'Fadden* 3615-3620.

Opinion that it is not entirely the Gregory Clause as to their giving up their land that prevents them, as those that have no land have the same aversion to the workhouse, *Boyle* 4338-4347. 4448-4453——At the time of the famine in 1846 the distress was very great, and the workhouses were full; steps witness and other proprietors took to relieve the people, *Olphert* 4735-4741——The same causes which are now said to prevent the people going into the poorhouse operated then, *ib.* 4742——The deaths in the poorhouse were, comparatively speaking, not many, *ib.* 4743, 4744——Misunderstanding among the people that when they go into the poorhouse they are obliged to surrender their land, *Nixon* 7252-7258.

See also *Begging.*

Wright, Mr. See *Outrages.*

Y.

Young, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been in the constabulary 15 years; has been head constable two years, 8380, 8381——Has been stationed nearly all the time in the Gweedore district, 8382——The return spoken of by Mr. Cruice, as to the number of outrages committed in the district, was prepared by witness, and is correct, 8383-8385——When these outrages were reported immediate steps were taken to discover the remains of the sheep; particulars of the results of these searches, 8386-8395. 8521-8528.

Report, 1857-8—continued.

Young, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Circumstances of the outrage on the house of Lillicoe, Lord George Hill's shepherd; and also of the attack on Cowan's house, who was shepherd to Mr. Huggup, 8396-8402——Number of sheep which were reported as having been killed in this district, 8403-8405——Witness collected the police-tax and the sheep-tax; amount collected between August 1857 and February 1858; 8406-8408——The people opposed it at first, but afterwards paid the money freely, 8409-8429——There were a few seizures, but nothing was sold; the people appeared to have plenty of money, 8409-8429. 8472-8474. 8489-8494.

Witness considers there is no destitution whatever; their clothing and bedding are better this year than ever they were, 8430-8440. 8515-8520——A very general feeling for the worse seems to have been stirred up between landlord and tenant since this interference of the priests with the affairs of the landlords, 8441-8443. 8461——Evidence showing that many of the recipients of this relief were people who were not at all in need of it, 8444-8460. 8462-8467. 8476-8480——There was a general disposition among them to conceal their real state from the visitors, 8449. 8458-8460.

Witness never saw sea-weed used in Gweedore as food, 8468-8471——Witness has received a reward of 25 *l.* for his conduct in collecting the taxes, 8481, 8482——Witness came very little into contact with the gentlemen and reporters who came to visit the district, but one of the reporters told witness he had been very much deceived by the priests, 8483-8488. 8495-8514.